

⇒ A Cultural Centre in Valletta	1
⇒ MaLIA Christmas Dinner	
⇒ Libraries and Technology	2
⇒ Web links	
⇒ Malta Book Fair	
⇒ Recent Books by Facet	3
⇒ Fresh thinking	
⇒ Get to know me - Claudio Laferla	4
⇒ Library Cartoons	
⇒ Europeana	
⇒ MCAST Library developments	5
⇒ Marsaxlokk Public Library	
⇒ MaLIA Secretary at IL Workshop	6
⇒ Local News	7
⇒ CDG Visit	
⇒ News from the Council	8
⇒ International News	

A Cultural Centre in Valletta

The MaLIA Council has, in the past, often discussed the issue of the need for a new, state-of-the-art public library in a more central position than the existing Central Public Library.

Following several discussions during the recent council meetings, it was decided that a Press Release is issued proposing that a Cultural Centre is built in place of the Royal Opera House ruins and that this cultural centre will include, amongst other facilities, a state-of-the-art public library.

The full Press Release is available on the MaLIA website together with a link to an iPetition that was launched concurrently with

the Press Release. The objective of the iPetition is to gather support from the general public for our proposal that we believe can be of benefit to all the citizens of Malta and Gozo. I would therefore like to encourage all members of

Some may say we are following a utopian dream

MaLIA to go to our website at www.malia-malta.org and sign the petition, adding their comments.

MaLIA is under no illusions and is fully aware that in proposing this project, we are facing an uphill struggle to convince the

authorities that an investment in such a project is indeed worthwhile despite not having a tangible return on investment. The intangible return on investment of such a project would be the possibility for the citizens of Malta and Gozo to have a landmark in Valletta where they can enjoy cultural activities, further their knowledge, satisfy their information and leisure needs and all this in a family friendly environment.

Some may say we are following a utopian dream. It may very well be, but we are going to give it our best shot now that EU funds for cultural projects are available.

Robert Mizzi



IMPORTANT NEWS: MaLIA Christmas dinner....

MaLIA is organising a Christmas Dinner for members and friends on Saturday 13 December 2008. The venue chosen for this social event is the Grand Hotel Excelsior, Floriana. More details will be shortly available on the MaLIA website in the **Activities** page. This is a

unique opportunity to meet with colleagues working in the library, information and archives scene in Malta and Gozo. Tell your colleagues about this event and book now by sending an e-mail to info@malia-malta.org or phone on 79322054. Bookings will be accepted

up to the 7 December 2008.

Make sure to note this date in your diary—**13 December 2008 — MaLIA DINNER**





LITA members use the promise of technology to deliver dynamic library collections and services.

Libraries and Technology

In this edition of our Newsletter, we would like to inform members about the Library and Information Technology Association (LITA).

Vision: As the center of expertise about information technology, the Library and Information Technology Association (LITA) leads in exploring and enabling new technologies to empower libraries. LITA members use the promise of technology to deliver dynamic library collections and services.

Mission Statement: LITA educates, serves and reaches out to its members, other ALA mem-

bers and divisions, and the entire library and information community through its publications, programs and other activities designed to promote, develop, and aid in the implementation of library and information technology.

Function Statement: LITA is concerned with the planning, development, design, application, and integration of technologies within the library and information environment, with the impact of emerging technologies on library service, and with the effect of automated technologies on people. Its major focus

is on interdisciplinary issues and emerging technologies. LITA disseminates information, provides educational opportunities for learning about information technologies and forums for the discussion of common concerns, monitors new technologies with potential applications in information science, encourages and fosters research, promotes the development of technical standards, and examines the effects of library systems and networks.

To learn more about LITA and their activities, go to their website at <http://www.lita.org/>

Web Links

Library Journal—available at <http://www.libraryjournal.com>

Resources for School Librarians

Website: <http://www.sldirectory.com/>

LibDocs

Resources for Librarians
http://www.virtualref.com/_libdocs/

24th Edition of the Malta Book Fair

The Malta Book Fair will this year be organised between the 12 and 16 November 2008 at the Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta.

The Opening Hours will be as follows:

Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 November— 0900 to 1330 and 1700 to 2100hrs

Friday 14 November— 0900 to 1330 and 1700 to 2200 hrs.

Saturday 15 November—0900 to 1230 and 1600 to 2200 hrs

Sunday 16 November— 1000 to 1230 and 1500 to 2100 hrs.

Entrance is free and more details about the programme are available at www.ktieb.org.mt (in Maltese).



Recent Books by Facet Publishing



Know it All, Find it Fast: an A-Z source guide for the enquiry desk, 3rd edn
 Bob Duckett, Peter Walker and Christine Donnelly

This award-winning source-book is an essential guide to where to look to find the answers quickly. It is designed as a first point of reference for library and information practitioners, to be depended upon if they are unfamiliar with the subject of an enquiry - or wish to find out more. October 2008; 496pp; paperback; 978-1-85604-652-7; £34.95



Reader Development in Practice: bringing literature to readers
 Susan Hornby and Bob Glass, editors

This edited collection covers all aspects of literature in relation to readership, exploring the chain of events connecting author and reader. It reflects on the challenges facing information professionals in reader development, looks at current promotion and partnership options, and offers new professionals and students fresh ideas, practical guidance and a firm underpinning knowledge upon which to build. August 2008; 240pp; hardback; 978-1-85604-624-4; £44.95



Digital Consumers: Reshaping the information professions
 David Nicholas and Ian Rowlands, editors

The information professions - librarianship, archives, publishing and, to some extent, journalism, have been rocked by the digital transition that has led to disintermediation, easy access and massive information choice. No information professional or student can afford not to read this far-reaching and important book. August 2008; 240pp; hardback; 978-1-85604-651-0; £39.95



M-libraries: libraries on the move to provide virtual access
 Gill Needham and Mohamed Ally, editors

The development of networked technologies opened up huge opportunities for libraries. The opportunity to deliver services and resources to users via their mobile phones, PDAs and other handheld devices will be as significant. Indeed, if libraries choose to ignore this challenge, they are in danger of being left behind in an increasingly competitive world of information provision and services. September 2008; 352pp; hardback; 978-1-85604-648-0; £44.95

Fresh thinking at University library

The second floor of the University's main library has been refurbished and reconfigured to create a more congenial environment in line with fresh thinking about changing library user needs.

The area now offers flexible study spaces for group and individual work, with comfortable furnishings and a considerable investment in hardware. This move is part of a general upgrading of the library and seeks to bring together the library's print collection, its growing range of electronic

resources, and the extensive facilities of the University IT services unit for the greater convenience of users.

Source: <http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20081026/university/fresh-thinking-at-university-library/>



**Get to know
Claudio
Laferla —
MaLIA
Secretary**

Get to Know ME!!

Full Name:

Claudio Laferla

Present occupation:

Information and Research Executive

Previous job:

Various. Most significant was in the early 90's at General Soft Drinks where I learned to love the PC

What is your star sign?

Gemini

Your experience of a life-time till today?

Winning the IASL Award for Information Literacy Program I designed back in 2003

What is your favorite book of all time?

Libricide by Rebecca Knuth

And what are you reading at the moment?

The rights of the reader

What are your hobbies?

Reading and Basketball

Whom would you like to be for a day?

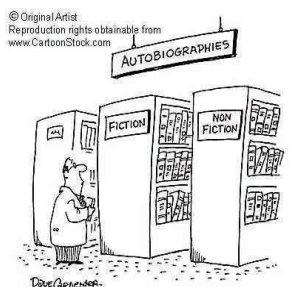
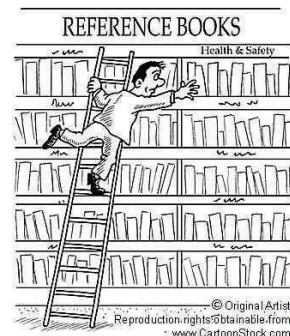
More and more myself

I wouldn't leave the house without

Something to read



LIBRARY CARTOONS



New look for Europeana launch

Europeana – the European digital library, museum and archive – is a 2-year project that began in July 2007. It will produce a prototype website giving users direct access to some 2 million digital objects, including film material, photos, paintings, sounds, maps, manuscripts, books, newspapers and archival papers.

The prototype will be launched in November 2008 by Viviane Reding, European Commissioner for Information Society and Media. The digital content will be selected from that which is already digitised and available in Europe's museums, libraries, archives and audio-visual collections. The prototype aims to have representative content from all four of

these cultural heritage domains, and also to have a broad range of content from across Europe.

The new logo (left) will appear in all 23 official European languages on the prototype site - think culture / pensar cultura / myslí kultúrne / tänk kultur – and so on.

<http://dev.europeana.eu/home.php>

www.malia-malta.org



MCAST Library – Recent major developments

Laurence Zerafa is Head Librarian at the MCAST Library and Learning Resource Centre

The MCAST Library and Learning Resources Centre (www.mcast.edu.mt/llrc/) consists of a system of 5 geographically separate libraries in different parts of the island of Malta and another one on the sister island of Gozo. Together all 6 libraries however form one library system catering for all the information needs of the Malta College of Arts Science and Technology (www.mcast.edu.mt) presently a learning community of about 4,500 students besides the lecturing and non academic staff. The College, Malta's leading government funded Vocational Education and Training institution was set up in 2001 and library operations started in mid 2003. Over these first years there has been rapid development but greater developments are in the making.

The next stage of development, over the coming 3-8 years, will see three major events happening;

1. MCAST will start awarding degrees in some study areas, beyond the present highest level (Higher national Diplomas) while still retaining the latter and lower levels

2. All nine Institutes will be physically centralised into one new Campus in Paola, where the present Main library is.

3. The current full-time student population (4,500) will more or less double.

For the Library these developments will mean:

- greater demand on its collections and services (additional degree students vs. just diploma students),
- centralisation of all collections and clients (one Campus rather than five geographically distinct ones) and
- finally a bigger user population (doubling of students).

At the time these three important decisions were being debated, now nearly two years ago, the Library was consulted to advise on implications and it was immediately apparent that the present Main library building (4 storeys with a total floor space of about 1,550 m² and about 1 km of potential shelving space) would not cater for these new conditions. So in spite of having just finished settling into a recently renovated building (May 2005) the decision was taken to build a new Library and Learning Resources Centre roughly 3 times

It is not common to have librarian oversee the plans for the construction of one new library, let alone two in the space of 5 years and for the same institution!

bigger than the present building. It is not common to have librarian oversee the plans for the construction of one new library, let alone two in the space of 5 years and for the same institution!

At present and since February 2008, we are working on plans and designs for this library. Extensive use of the published literature on the standards for and design of library buildings was made use of. (Some of these texts consulted are listed at the end of this article on page6).

However over and above this, a tour of physical visits to 12 academic and 8 public libraries in Switzerland and The Netherlands was arranged for the Librarian Mr. Laurence Zerafa. This took place in early May 2008 and covered libraries in Zurich and Zug in Switzerland and

libraries in Leeuwarden, The Hague, Nijmegen, Wageningen, Utrecht, Maastricht, Delft and Amsterdam. Included was a visit (on behalf of MaLIA) to IFLA offices in The Hague.

All academic libraries visited were mostly through pre-set

Continued on page 6

Book donation for Marsaxlokk public library

The Marsaxlokk public library has received a book donation from the US Embassy. The books that were presented by Ms. Cynthia Ehrlich, Press and Cultural Attaché at the U.S. Embassy, to the Marsaxlokk public library on August 28. During the presentation, Ms Ehrlich discussed the importance of reader development and the acquisition of

knowledge about other cultures with the local librarian and local council representatives. The MaLIA Chairman was invited to attend for the presentation by the Marsaxlokk Local Council. MaLIA is currently in discussions with the US Embassy on possible avenues for cooperation in the forthcoming months.



I would strongly recommend such visits to any librarian involved in building a new library building or considering alterations to existing buildings.

appointments and I must state that Swiss and Dutch librarians are very helpful colleagues. Even on the few occasions when I turned up unannounced, and I introduced myself somebody did accompany me. Each visit (3 hours or so) consisted of an overview verbal explanation of the scope of the library, a walk-through the building including the areas not accessible to the public followed by a question and answer session with the technical person involved with designing the mostly newly

built building or recent renovations.

The value of these visits for myself as one of the key persons (along with the eventually appointed architects, engineers and interior designers) in the design of spaces for this new MCAST Library and Learning Resource Centre lay in gaining an insight into how modern libraries look and work in a rapidly and continuously changing environment. I could also observe how older library buildings have been adapted to these changes.

These physical visits with the associated observations, notes and pictures will all be at the back of my mind when decisions will be taken with our new Library building as it goes through all the development stages to completion in 3 years time or so. Physical visits by far surpass whatever one reads or hear and I would strongly recommend such visits to any librarian involved in building a new library building or considering alterations to existing buildings.

Laurence Zerafa
MCAST Librarian

Title	Author	ISBN	Imprint	Year
Checklist of library building design considerations	Sannwald, William W.	0-8389-3506-0	London : American Library Association	2001
Changing needs changing libraries : documentation of new library buildings in Europe	Mittler, Elmar	3-930457-78-4	Gottingen : Liber Architecture Group	2006
Building blocks for planning functional library space	American Library Association	0-8108-4136-3	Lanham, Md. : Scarecrow Press	2001c
IFLA library building guidelines : development & reflections	Latimer, Karen and Hellen Niegaard	978-3-598-11768-8	Munich : K.G. Saur	2007c

MaLIA Secretary at UNESCO Information Literacy Workshop



Claudio Laferla, the MaLIA Secretary, has attended the fifth UNESCO Information Literacy Workshop held in Ankara between the 3 and 5 September 2008. The workshop was hosted by the Department of Information Management &

Faculty of Education of Hacettepe University. The workshop website is available at <http://en.tttworkshop.net/>. In the photo on the left, Claudio (first from left) during one of the sessions with fellow library and information professionals.

To read the article written by Claudio Laferla on the workshop and published in The Malta Independent, go to <http://www.independent.com.mt/news.asp?newsitemid=75659>

Local News

DONATION TO ZABBAR PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Zabbar Public Library has received a donation made of German Books when a delegation from Eschborn, near Frankfurt, led by Lord Mayor Wilhelm Speckhardt, visited the Zabbar Council. The donation, consisting of more than 100 books, will be of great help to all those learning or already practicing German at all levels.

EXHIBITION ON GOZO'S COASTAL DEFENCES

An exhibition on the coastal defences of Gozo was opened at the National Archives in Vajringa Street, Victoria, on 30 October. The exhibition, set up by Mgr Joseph Bezzina, assistant National Archivist, and his staff, highlights past and present defences of the island. It is divided into two main sections. The first consists of 20 documents related to coastal defences between 1595 and 1804. The earliest, over 400 years old, refers to two lookout posts - the first known as the Mgarr Wardija which stood above the area known as Iż-Żewwieqa. The second section consists of photographs of the major coastal fortifications of Gozo - towers, batteries, redoubts, underwater obstruction and the fougasses. A small philately section depicts defence works, including the Comino tower. The exhibition will remain open till November 15. It is open daily, Saturdays included, between 7.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY'S HONEYCOMB SUNSCREEN REMOVED

The University Library's sunscreen has been removed as it was damaged and cracking and spalling in the concrete elements that support the ceramic screen were observed. The original design, way back in 1968, of the new library building was in itself very controversial, as was the whole project. The use of a concrete and ceramic screen for the library was a much-discussed issue. The University acknowledges that the library building had become an iconic landmark.

EDUCATION BENEFITS FROM €41.4 MILLION IN EU FUNDS —ABOUT €11 MILLION FOR UNIVERSITY LIBRARY SERVICES

A sum of €41.4 million from European Regional Development Fund has been allocated to education for the period between 2007 and 2013, with the University benefitting from about €31 million, half of which (€15.7 million) will be spent on the construction of an ICT Faculty. So far, 16 projects have been approved, while the investment of another €10 million in 10 other initiatives is awaiting approval. Under the European Social Fund, another six projects, costing €17.7 million, have been approved, and eight could be in line for an injection of €16.7 million if accepted. Among the University projects being carried out thanks to the EU funding are the purchase of equipment for its chemistry and biology laboratories, the development of research facilities for design materials, the construction of a biomedical engineering laboratory and the improvement of the analytical facility of the chemistry laboratory, among others. About €11 million from the ESF will be injected into two projects for the improvement of its library services.

CILIP CDG visit on schedule...

As already reported in the Last Newsletter, MaLIA, through its International Relations Officer, is presently assisting Ms. Tracey Ainsley, the current Honorary International Relations Officer of Career Development Group, in the organization of a visit to Malta planned for March 2009. The CDG have just confirmed that a group of 14 UK librarians from various library backgrounds will be coming over to Malta on a study tour between Tuesday 24th and Monday 30th

March 2009. The CDG have expressed the wish to visit the National Archives of Malta, the National Library of Malta, the University of Malta Library, the MCAST Library and Learning Resources Centre and the Schools Library Service. The MaLIA International Relations Officer will shortly be writing to the Directors of these local institutions to coordinate these visits. This CDG visit will also include a public talk on Friday 27th March on the subject of continuous

professional development for library and information professionals, focusing on the UK experience. On Sunday 29th March a sponsored country side/coast walk will be organised during the afternoon, the proceeds of which will go towards assisting a VSO librarian. The visit by this group of UK librarians, besides being an opportunity to meet experienced professionals, will also form part of the activities MaLIA will be organising to commemorate its 40th Anniversary 1969-2009.



c/o University of Malta Library
Msida MSD 2080

Email: info@malia-malta.org

Web: www.malia-malta.org

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

MaLIA Council News

- The MaLIA Council has sent a third letter to the Minister responsible for libraries and archives, the Hon. Dolores Cristina, asking for a meeting to discuss important matters related to our profession.
- The Mayor of Valletta, Dr. Alexei Dingli, has approached MaLIA for a meeting to discuss the technical issues related to the possibility of opening a public library in Valletta.
- The iPetition launched to gather support for the press release proposing a Cultural Centre in Valletta had over 200 signatures at the beginning of November.
- MaLIA has been approached by the Culture and Audiovisuals Unit within the Ministry of Education, Youth, Culture and Sport to provide advice on the recently launched European initiative on Copyright in the Knowledge Economy (Green Paper).
- A MaLIA group is now also available on Facebook thanks to the initiative of the MaLIA International Relations Officer, Laurence Zerafa. The MaLIA group can be accessed through the MaLIA website and has the objective of creating a forum for discussing local and international issues related to our profession.

Saying

Let us welcome controversial books and controversial authors.

John F. Kennedy

International News...

IFLA Government Information and Official Publications Section

Strategic Plan 2005-2007

Available at

<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s17/annual/sp17.htm>

Online Information 2008, the event where content and technology meet. The event covers 6 main sectors:

- Online Content Resources
- ePublishing
- Library Management Systems
- Content Management Expo
- Web 2.0 Technologies
- Search Solutions

<http://www.online-information.co.uk/online08/index.html>

EBLIDA News—Issue 9/2008

Available at

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

NS2: Niche Social Network Sites

NS2 is devoted to documenting the variety of online social network sites and services established to facilitate networking among communities with focused interests or purpose. NS2 is a companion blog to Friends: Social Networking Sites for Engaged Library Services and SciTechNet(s): Science and Technology Networks.

<http://nichesocialnetwork-sites.blogspot.com/>

Umbrella 2009 - Making Connections

The power of people, partnerships and services — University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield.
14 - 15 July 2009

<http://www.umbrella2009.org.uk/>

CILIP Network of Expertise and Interests

This site is a space where CILIP members share information about themselves so that other members can find them, and initiate a conversation or seek help. It's an information dating agency of sorts. Or maybe an information 'swap-shop'.

<http://cilip.camp7.org/>

BOBCATSSS 2009

@ Porto, Portugal
28—30 January 2009

The 17th annual BOBCATSSS symposium

Targeting library and information science students

Location: the city of Porto, Portugal
400 attendants, worldwide participation