

Member of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA),
the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA)
and of the Commonwealth Library Association (COMLA).

Editorial



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Social Networking

Social Networking is a place where people come together for different reasons. This may also be a virtual place. In this respect, interfaces such as Facebook, Bebo and MySpace come to mind. Yet Facebook lacks the facility of a search engine. Google unveiled its plans with OpenSocial as a new rival in the market of the Social Networking scene. All this has been possible with the new online technology known as Web2.0. This movement has grown exponentially and is offering different modes of sharing personal information and new ways of communication with more features and possibilities and also offering clarity both in voice and video levels.

If you are wondering whether these Social Network spaces claim any numbers, it has been estimated that between them, they have circa 100mln members. For those in marketing, Facebook has a market value of \$15bln. All this money invested in software applications and interfaces underline the importance of Social Networking.

In all this “e-ferment”, how are we as information professionals going to capture the wave of Social Networking and turn it into avenues of helping to create ‘information literate’ citizens? Surely this is not a far fetched concept especially in knowing that even in management, the quality of information shared between colleagues is when they meet over a cup of coffee and there they share the ‘tricks-of-the-trade’ in solving this or that problem. On the same concept, grabbing the Social Networking opportunity and strategizing it is also possible. Motivation and conviction play an important role.

MaLIA NEWS

Renew your Membership Now!

All members are kindly asked to send in their renewal membership fees for 2008 by not later than the 31st January 2008. A renewal form is being included with this Newsletter and is also available on the MaLIA website at

<http://www.malia-malta.org/join-us>



The MaLIA Council would like to take this opportunity to wish **ALL** its **members and their families** a Blessed Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.



NB Visit the URL <www.malia-malta.info>.

Forthcoming MaLIA Activity

'Professional ethics and discipline for librarians' by Dr. Mike Freeman, visiting professional from the UK, to be held on Thursday 31 January 2008. More details to follow shortly.



WEB LINKS

EBIB - Electronic Bulletin for Librarians -

EBIB is a non-profit organization/service that has existed since 1999 and is being created by a group of volunteers. The Selected Full text section is worth visiting.

<http://ebib.oss.wroc.pl/english/what.php>

ALIA - This is an Australian site and offers an extensive list of other libraries and also a search facility. Also, a list of foreign newspapers is available.

<http://www.alia.org.au/links/international.html>

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International library organisations

Whilst by no means comprehensive, this is a list of known international library associations. ALIA has strong links with many of the organisations listed here.

- American Association of Law Librarians [AALL]
- American Association of Research Libraries [AARL]
- American Center for Research Libraries [ACRL]
- American Indian Library Association [AILA]
- American Library Association [ALA]
- American Society for Information Science [ASIS]
- American Special Libraries Association [SLA]
- Angloian Library Society
- Association des Bibliothécaires Français [ABF]
- Association for Information Management [ASLIB - UK]
- Association for Teacher-Librarianship in Canada [ATLC]
- Association of Swiss Librarians and Librarians [BSB]

ALIA



Newspapers' Articles

1) Register of Maltese books in print

The National Book Council is planning to publish online a register of all Maltese books in print, filling a void in the Maltese literary field. (The Times, 31st Oct)

2) Knight's Archives to be digitized (The Times, 21st Oct)

Bank support for English literacy

The HSBC Cares For Children Fund has supported the distribution of books by the Royal British Legion to every primary and secondary level student participating in the Legion's English language summer courses.

The books were given out to students during a presentation ceremony at the British Legion's headquarters in Valletta, by HSBC's central area director, Alex Mizzi. "English literacy among Maltese children should remain in the spotlight, since we still have a percentage of students who have difficulties with reading and writing in English," said Mr Mizzi. Over the past years, the HSBC Cares For Children Fund has also been distributing books to primary and secondary school libraries on a regular basis.

University Library: Extended Opening hours

As from Monday 15th October 2007 the Main Library on campus extended its Monday to Friday evening hours to 8.00pm, during semesters, for the convenience of users.

more...

Local News

National Book Council Website

The National Book Council has launched its website at www.ktieb.org.mt



Maltese read the least in the EU

The Times, 1st November 2007

The Maltese read the least number of books within the EU, according to new data on culture released by Eurostat. Europeans were asked whether they have read a book in the past 12 months. Only 45 per cent of Maltese respondents answered yes, the lowest proportion among the 27 member states, with Portugal only slightly higher at 50 per cent. The Dutch are the most avid readers, with 84 per cent saying they had read at least one book in the previous year.

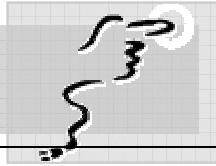
The Maltese get their culture mainly via the TV. Eighty one per cent said they had viewed a cultural programme in the past 12 months. This was followed by going to the cinema (49 per cent), visiting historical monuments (47 per cent), going to a concert (32 per cent) and attending the theatre (25 per cent). More than three quarters of the EU's population had watched or listened to a cultural programme on TV or radio in the preceding 12 months and 71 per cent had read at least one book.

(The rest of the article can be accessed online)

MaLIA writes to the Minister of Education, Youth and Employment

In a letter dated 4 November 2008 and signed by Mr Robert Mizzi (MaLIA Chairman), MaLIA has complained about the lack of cooperation from the Ministry regarding various important library issues. These include the promised Libraries Act that has been in the pipeline for the last 3 years and on which MaLIA has submitted two position statements. To date, MaLIA is still awaiting a reply or acknowledgement to its registered letter!

Interesting News



It is good to know that another 'Open Source' to Wikipedia is growing fast. It is known as - **Citizendium** -. It has already over 3000 articles though still far from the 2mln of Wikipedia. The creator of says Citizendium believes that it will grow rapidly.
http://en.citizendium.org/wiki/Main_Page

Main Page

Electronic Keyrings

Not only your family photos on your desktop but know you can keep them with you all along. With the new Digital Photo Keyring Album now you can download, copy, replace and carry your images around.



Lingo Voyager 3

NO! It's not a new space shuttle! It is a translation machine. It has around 40,000 words and 46,000 phrases in 20 languages.



Specifications: 1.4inch LCD Screen; 8MB RAM & USB connection.

International News



'Folksonomy takes power from expert librarians' ...this is the Title of an interesting article which was published in the Financial Times on the 7th November. It argues about the importance of having all information - even that on mobile phones - more usable, or in other words, more 'user friendly'. This brings us to the conclusion of the importance of cataloguing and classification of resources in libraries. It is imperative that users are able to find the needed information every time they visit the library or any other resource centres. This is one of the user benefits when accessing information from libraries as opposed to when they try to locate information on the Internet.



Saying

"Nothing sickens me more than the closed door of a library."

~ **Barbara Tuchman**