



Editorial

January is already over, and we hope you all had a good start to this New Year! We are all back into our routine and working hard to offer you the best possible services.

This issue of the newsletter is slightly longer than usual as we have added a couple of interesting articles relating to philosophy and the world of fiction. The articles include *Why do we tell stories?* And *Why doesn't Batman ever kill the Joker?*

During the first two weeks of February, many are thinking of St. Valentine's Day. Hence, the Library is inviting you to try out a 'Blind date with a book'. No awkward questions, no judgmental looks, no need to call!! Just have a blind date with a book. It might turn out to be a flop, but it might also turn out to be the best book you have ever read so far!!

Enjoy reading and good luck with your date!! ;)

JCL Library Staff



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Why should students use the Library?

Have you ever really thought about why, in this day and age where technology is taking over almost every aspect of our lives, libraries are still standing? The relevance of libraries and librarians is very often questioned by those who believe that the digitisation of information will render them obsolete.

First and foremost, libraries have a vital role of teaching people how to get reliable information from the internet. It is true that the internet contains a wealth of information, but it also contains inaccurate and inappropriate content. It is the librarian's task to help users analyse and retrieve the information which is better suited to the person who requests it. Thus, in spite of the advances in computer technology, a human will still find information better than a search engine. Librarians are also knowledgeable about proper citation skills, as well as ethical uses of information, in order to avoid plagiarism issues.

Unlike the Internet, Library resources are better organized, indexed and deliver more reliable results. On a more basic level, libraries still provide one of the few places that offers quiet areas to read or study. Furthermore, the JC Library also provides Internet and Wi-Fi access to all its patrons..

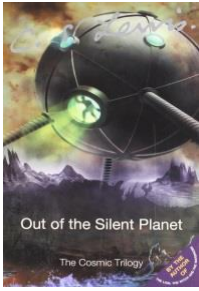
Libraries are portals to all of the world's knowledge, and librarians make sure that knowledge continues to be recorded and saved for the future, even as information-storage devices and formats change.



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

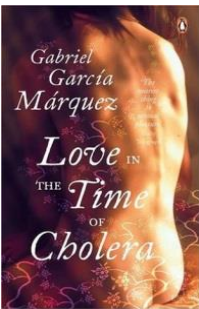
Librarians' Choice

Recommended reading from our bookshelves.



Out of the Silent Planet (Cosmic Trilogy) by C.S. Lewis (2005)

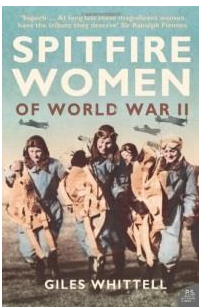
In the first novel of C.S. Lewis's classic science fiction trilogy, Dr Ransom, a Cambridge academic, is abducted and taken on a spaceship to the red planet of Malacandra, which he knows as Mars. His captors are plotting to plunder the planet's treasures and plan to offer Ransom as a sacrifice to the creatures who live there. Ransom discovers he has come from the 'silent planet' - Earth - whose tragic story is known throughout the universe..



Love in the Time of Cholera by Gabriel Garcia Marquez (2006)

Florentino Ariza has never forgotten his first love. He has waited nearly a lifetime in silence since his beloved Fermina married another man. No woman can replace her in his heart.

But now her husband is dead. Finally – after fifty-one years, nine months and four days – Florentino has another chance to declare his eternal passion and win her back. Will love that has survived over a century remain unrequited?



Spitfire Women of World War II by Giles Whittell (2008)

This is the incredible story of an exclusive wartime sisterhood: a group of courageous, individual, gifted women who, in exceptionally dangerous circumstances, flew Spitfires, Hurricanes and Lancasters to the frontline in World War II.

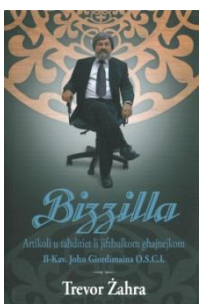
Although not allowed into combat, the women of Air Transport Auxilliary provided a vital link for the RAF. They flew unarmed, without radios or instruments at the mercy of the weather and long-range enemy aircraft, to deliver planes to the male pilots who would fly them into battle.



Ghazla tajba ta' Rita Grech (2010)

Stephanie u Steve, koppja mizzewga kif ukoll omm u missier ta' tewmin. Kollox ikun miexi sew, sakemm Steve jiddeciedi li jibdel ix-xogħol fejn jiltaqa' ma xi ħbieb antiki tiegħu. Huwa jibda jinsa r-responsabilita' tiegħu bħala missier u raġel mizzewweg. Għall-ewwel Stephanie tagħlaq għajnejha, iżda meta tara li l-affarjiet qed ikomplu jikbru tiddeciedi li taqta' linja. Ħajjitha tinbidel mil-lejl għan-nhar meta Steve jitlaq mid-dar u hija tkun trid taffaccja l-ħajja waħidha bit-tfal. Stephanie tibda tħossha imdejqa ...sakemm f'ħajjitha jidhol Matthew, missier tal-istess eta' tat-tfal tagħha. Bejniethom tibda ħbiberija sabiħa li biż-żmien tibda tikber f'xi ħaġa ħafna ikbar minn hekk.

Iżda x'jigri meta Steve jerġa jipprova jirbah lura l-imħabba ta' martu? Il-ġid tat-tfal għal Stephanie kien l-iktar ħaġa importanti...iżda mbagħad Matthew? Matthew u Nicole kienu saru parti minn ħajjitha wkoll.



Bizzilla: Artikoli u tahditiet li jifthulkom ghajnejkom minn Trevor Zahra (2013)

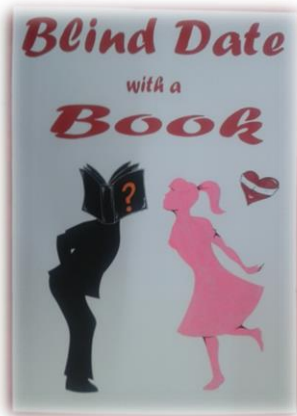
“Dan huwa ktieb li għandu jservi ta' gwida għal kull politiku ġenwin, kull Nisrani prattikanti, kull cittadin gentlom u kull min jaspira għal ħajja edifikanti.”

“Bizzilla fl-Injam”
Lehen l-Għaqda Dilettanti tal-Arkett
Numru 57: Diċembru – Marzu 2012

“Għażiż Kavallier, minn qalbi nifrahlek għal din l-opra ġdida tiegħek. Jalla dal-ktieb jixtered ma' pajjiżna kollu, jidhol go kull dar u forsi xi darba jsib postu fis-sillabi tal-iskejjel tagħna.”

Ittra mingħand persuna mill-aktar rispettabbli, li ma tixtieqx ixxandar isimha .

Blind Date with a Book



People are creatures of habit and sometimes they get stuck reading books by authors or genres with which they are most familiar, or books which were recommended by people whose opinion they value. So during the first two weeks of February you might notice that at the book display at the library is different from the one we usually have.

Our objective is to get our patrons to engage themselves with books they may not otherwise consider. We aim to get our readers to break from what they usually read and try out new authors and new genres.

Books will be wrapped in brown paper, a quote will be written on each cover and a surprise will be adhered to each book. The books displayed can be identified by language; English Italian and Maltese, so that readers can choose their preferred language. There will be no hints as to its genre or author, but we will make sure we include a little bit of everything, be it humor, mystery, fantasy, sci-fi or historical genres.

This is a chance to read new things and try new authors, so stop by and find your next read. What we ask you to do is don't judge the book by its cover. Give your blind date a chance and see how it goes, maybe you might find your 'soul mate'.



Research Tip

How to Google

Search terms called **'operators'** can help you get far more specific results than you would by only using generic search terms. Here are some of the most useful.

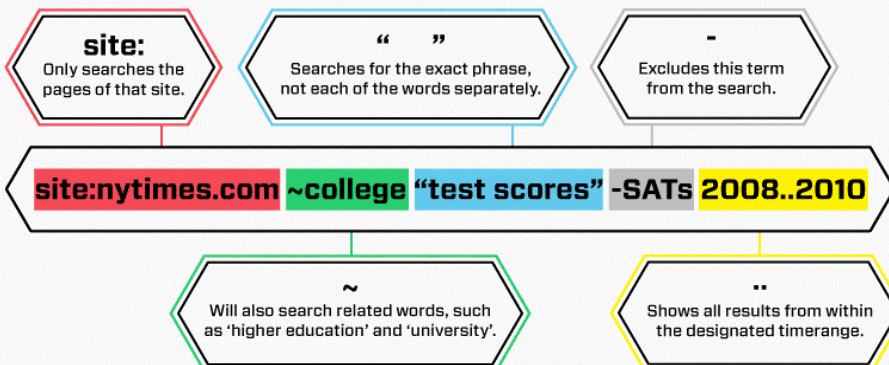


What You Want

NYTimes **articles** about test scores in college, but not the SATs, written between 2008 and 2010.



How To Google It



Get More Out of Google

*Tips & Tricks for Students
Conducting Online Research*

This infographic was adapted from Hackcollege.com.

Source:

<http://www.hackcollege.com/blog/2011/11/23/infographic-get-more-out-of-google.html>

New books at the Library



The Greatness Of Story

by Fr. Justin Schembri O.P.

Story-telling is something that we all do; we tell each other everything from what happened to us last night or the bigger-than-life events that are occurring across the globe to those stories which have now become a part of our shared story as humanity. The great thing about story-telling is that there always needs to be at least two participants: the story-teller and the listener; story-telling is therefore always done within a community. What is more is that many of those who have told someone a story or two know that the reaction of the one listening can give us the enthusiasm to continue or to put us off into silence. Indeed, if a listener would remark 'and then what?', the story-teller knows that the listener is involved in the story and this thrusts the story forward!

But why do we tell stories in the first place? Why this need to recount or narrate our lives to others? I think, in telling our stories to each other, we open the possibility for relationship – a relationship based first and foremost on friendship; a friendship which is founded upon knowing each other's stories. This is something, I believe, that we all share – this is a part of our shared human existence. Nonetheless, one can say it goes beyond this shared human existence and this is best exemplified in many of our sacred texts (especially the three monotheistic faiths); they seem to show that there is a God who wants to share his story with us and he wants us to share our story with him. For this reason, there are many stories – sacred or otherwise – that go beyond our own personal stories and attempt to explain aspects of THE story – God's story.

In the 20th century, we have authors like J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Hugo Dyson, Graham Greene to name a few – all authors coming from Oxford from roughly the same time-period – who had a knack of telling good stories which explain not only their own stories but also shed some light on the story between God and man – on a God who wants mankind to know that s/he is not alone and there is an open-ended invitation to story-telling, to relationship, to friendship. All one has to do is to accept the invitation and to open the book and begin to narrate; the choice is ours!

If you are interested in attending a talk on the subject, please contact the Library Staff directly by the **14th of February 2015**.

• *Chocolat* by *Joanne Harris*.

• *Blackberry wine* by *Joanne Harris*

• *Cake Boss : stories and recipes from mia famiglia* by *Buddy Valastro*.

• *Biology essentials for dummies* by *Rene Fester Kratz*.

• *Psychology : a very short introduction* by *Gillian Butler*.

• *The Vintage Teacup Club* by *Vanessa Greene*.

• *Vivien's heavenly ice cream shop* by *Abby Clements*.

• *Apple and rain* by *Sarah Crossan*

• *Write short stories and get them published* by *Zoe Fairbairns*.

• *Philosophy in minutes* by *Marcus weeks*.

• *Physics in minutes* by *Giles Sparrow*.

... and many more.

Batman vs The Joker: Utilitarianism vs Deontology

By Ryan Scicluna – Graphic Novels Library Malta (GNLM)

If you are a fan of the Dark Knight like I am, then the simple question like “Why doesn’t Batman kill the Joker?” must have crossed your mind. Why does Batman allow a mass murderer to live knowing that the justice system will not keep him locked up in Arkham Asylum?

Batman’s character was created to be a symbol for the people of Gotham; to inspire hope and show them how to be better. In order to do this, he risks his own life to save the innocent on a daily basis. Some might say that he sacrificed his chance of living a normal life in order to become a Batman. This is a very noble and honorable cause. Even though Batman walks a very dangerous path by delivering justice to the innocent and punishing the criminals, he never crosses the line of becoming judge, jury and executioner. The only rule Batman allows himself is not to take anybody’s life regardless of how despicable or sadistic the person might be.



The Joker is Batman’s main villain because he represents the exact opposite of what Batman stands for; he is not motivated by any cause, he is chaos incarnate, he has no moral. He simply exists to be the Ying to Batman’s Yang. Joker has been the author of many heinous crimes, such as killing the second Robin, Jason Todd; shooting and paralyzing Barbara Gordon; killing Sarah Essen, the second wife of commissioner James Gordon; he tried to poison the citizens of Gotham multiple times; not to mention the hundreds he has killed for simply looking at him or not laughing at one of his jokes. Every time Batman catches the criminal and sends him to Arkham Asylum, the Joker always manages to escape and commit more crimes. So why doesn’t Batman kill the Joker to prevent him from committing more crimes?



The reasoning of killing one man to save the many is a Utilitarian one in its nature. Utilitarianism is a system of ethics that requires us to maximize the total happiness or well being resulting from our actions. Saving many lives at the cost of one is a clear example of such reasoning. However, Batman doesn’t think like that. He believes that killing is wrong and that by killing just one man he would have crossed a line and become a criminal himself. For this reason Batman is more of a deontological thinker. To deontologists, the ends never justify the means, but rather the means must be justifiable on their own merits. If Batman kills the Joker, he would not be the symbol of hope for the people of Gotham anymore. He will cross a line, from which he might not be able to come back from. He will be no better than the criminals he dedicated his life to stop.

We could keep arguing forever whether Batman should or should not kill the Joker. However what is important to note is that, thanks to “literature” (the comics and movies), we have a way to discuss such complex issues without having to experience them first hand. Unfortunately for Batman, but luckily for us Batman fans, I’m sure that he will struggle with the issue of killing him for many years to come.

Interesting Readings:

- Batman and Philosophy – *Mark D. White and Robert Arp*
- Riddle me this, Batman – *Kevin K. Durand and Mary K. Leigh*
- God on the streets of Gotham – *Paul Asay*

<https://www.facebook.com/GraphicNovelsLibraryMalta>



News from the Library

Useful links



A web search engine for students and researchers that aims to make academic information easily accessible to everyone

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

Global Access to knowledge about life on Earth

<http://eol.org/>

An award-winning source of unbiased, easy-to-understand answers and explanations of how the world actually works

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

Learn something new everyday

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

Good tech reads from around the Internet

<http://thetechblock.com/>

Book Club Meetings



Book Club meetings are now being held regularly in the Library, on Mondays and Wednesdays.

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

Facebook

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



You can renew your books online through MY LIBRARY ACCOUNT

Access 'My Library Account'
@
<http://www.um.edu.mt/library>

Step-by step instructions
@
http://www.um.edu.mt/data/assets/pdf_file/0008/219887/RenewLoans_PDF.pdf

