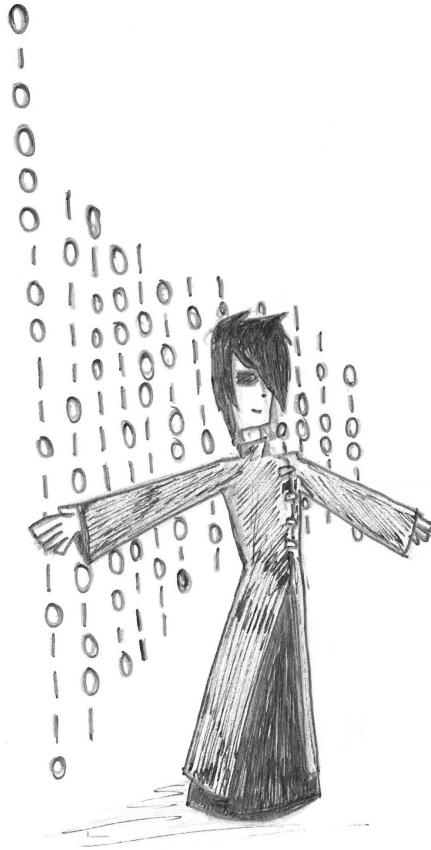


Chapter 13

Data Sources



'Science in itself' is nothing, for it exists only in the human beings who are its bearers. 'Science for its own sake' usually means nothing more than science for the sake of the people who happen to be pursuing it.

Rudolf Virchow

'Standpoints in Scientific Medicine', *Disease, Life, and Man: Selected Essays* (1958), 42.

This Chapter lists data sources and identifies those organizations that gather this data. Whilst it attempts to list as many organisations and links as possible, the list is not exhaustive and requires the user to update it through online searches and other data source.

Analogue – a library/archive approach

The existence of different archives in Malta

In this section we will give a brief explanation of the different archives that exist in Malta. The information has been sourced from Charles Farrugia's book "L-Arkivji ta' Malta" (2006).

The National Archives of Malta holds documents from 1530 till today. In the former Santu Spirito Hospital in Rabat, Malta we mainly find document pertaining to the British Period, while the Banca Giuratale in Mdina holds documents from 1530 until 1899 and the archives in Gozo, situated in Victoria hold documents from 1560 till the present. All these fall under the National Archive holdings. There is also the Bibjoteka in Valletta which holds documents from 1107 till about 1800s.

The Department of Information also holds a number of important documents. It has media releases starting from 1957, the Government Gazette holdings start in 1813, an archive of films starting from 1959 and a photo archive starting from 1970.

Other public archives which might be of interest are:

- The Archives of the Notaries that cover the period from the 15th Century up to the present;
- The Public Registry Archives expanding the period from 1863 till today;
- The Archives of the Courts starting from 1900;
- The Archives of the Lands Department;
- The Records and Archives of the Department of Works that start from 1800;
- The Parliamentary Records starting from 1849;
- The University of Malta Archives which starts from the 11th Century;
- The Public Broadcasting Services Ltd Archives which commences from the 1970s;
- The Central Bank Archive which begins in 1964;
- The Medical Records starting from 1978;
- The National Museum of Arts beginning in 1798;
- The centre of documentation for Teachers starting from 1851;
- The Archive of the Administration of Burials;
- The Enemalta Archives commencing from 1853; and
- The Maltacom Archives starting from 1943.

The Church also holds a number of archives. The Archive of the Cathedral of Malta holds documents from the 11th Century onwards while the Archbishop's Curia holds documents from the 16th Century to the present, the Bishop's Curia in Gozo commenced in 1554 and the Gozo Cathedral archives starts from 1623. There are other archives held by the church such as the Archive in the Wignacourt museum and the various archives held by the diverse religious orders such as the Dominican Archive which holds documents starting from the 15th Century and the Archives of the Sisters of Charity which holds documents from 1868 to the present.

There are also a number of private archives on the Maltese islands such as the Archives of Dr Albert Ganado which hold material from 1296 till the present, the archives of "The Times" which start in 1930 and the archives of the Lanfranco family which starts in 1540.

There are a number of archives held abroad which are important to the researcher venturing in archival research about Malta. If you are interested in researching the British period the most important foreign archive is The National Archives situated near Kew Gardens in London, England. Other archives, found in England that might be useful for the researcher are: the Family Records Centre, The Historical Manuscripts Commission and the British library to mention a few. In Italy one finds the Magistral Library

and Archives of the Order of Malta, while in America the National Archives and Records Administration might prove fruitful in some cases. For more information on archival research in Malta consult Farrugia's book.

In addition to archives, one can find other libraries which are managed by the relative institutions such that those held by the National Statistics Office, the Malta Environment and Planning Authority, the United Nations International Institute on Ageing, the National Archives and other agencies. These entities host a vast amount of publications and data which is made available for public use.

Specialised Libraries

National Statistics Office

<http://www.nso.gov.mt/site/page.aspx?pageid=29>

A repository of over 10,000 statistical publications sourced from international and national statistics organisations which has resulted in one of the largest specialised libraries in Malta. A Collection Development Policy was developed by the NSO to ensure a coherent and sustainable development of the material available for the library users. In addition, a Web OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue) is one of the tools envisaged in the running of the library services.

Malta Environment and Planning Authority

www.mepa.org.mt/library.html

Houses a collection of national and international books related to planning, the environment and legislation. Also houses publications produced by the same organisation. Also houses plans and old documents in plan format as well as having a legacy of maps and other data.

University of Malta Library

<http://www.um.edu.mt/library>

Has access to an online OPAC Search facility and e-Resources/e-Journals search facility

Division of Library and Information Studies, University of Malta

<http://home.um.edu.mt/lis/>

United Nations International Institute on Ageing

<http://www.inia.org.mt/library.html>

Has over 1000 books and digital databases comprising national and international material.

Malta Library and Information Association

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

Various links to information and library services

Malta Public Libraries Online Catalogue

<http://opac.library.gov.mt/>

MCAST Library

http://www.mcast.edu.mt/llrc_aboutus_generalinformation.asp

Department of Libraries

<http://www.libraries-archives.gov.mt/>

Contains information on the National Library and the individual Libraries in Malta and Gozo

National Archives

<https://secure2.gov.mt/nationalarchives/>

National Archives Council

http://www.doi.gov.mt/EN/bodies/councils/national_archives.asp

National Book Council

<http://www.ktieb.org.mt/>

Schools' Library Service

http://www.education.gov.mt/edu/edu_division/student_services_sls.htm

Heritage Malta

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

Department of Information

<http://www.doi.gov.mt/>

Istituto Italiano di Cultura - Biblioteca

<http://80.22.205.87/bwnet/Frameset.asp?OPAC=ICLV>

KOPJAMALT - Copyright Licensing Agency for the Maltese Islands

<http://cwebdesign.com/kopjamalt/>

Paolo Freire Institute, Malta

<http://www.jesuit.org.mt/justice/freire.html>

The Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry

<http://www.maltachamber.org.mt/content.aspx?id=186719>

Digital – online

Digital data sources are limited as very few national agencies supply their data online, however the list is growing as legislation on Freedom of Information and Access such as the Aarhus Convention are implemented. On an international level, data is made available as well as a variety of tools. The following list highlights some main Maltese and international datasets and links to agencies who might offer the researcher information as well as raw data as available.

Throughout the book, specific theme-related tools were identified. The following lists a number of datasets and tools that researchers would find useful for their studies.

- **Statistics**

StatPages

<http://statpages.org/>

A comprehensive list of digital statistical tools

National Cancer Institute

<http://www.cancer.gov/statistics/tools>

Has theme-related databases and includes various statistical tools

StatTrek

<http://stattrek.com/Tables/StatTables.aspx>

Comprises a variety of tools and online calculators

Rice Virtual Lab in Statistics

<http://onlinestatbook.com/rvls.html>

A wide range of tools available even for download

- **Data Repositories and Map Servers**

National Statistics Office Links to Organisations

<http://www.nso.gov.mt/site/page.aspx?pageid=33>

The NSO external links page contains a series of links to national, European and international organisations who hold information and who can be contacted for thematic research, list: 27 national agencies, 31 European agencies and 27 international agencies.

National Statistics Office Statistical Database (StatDB)

<http://www.nso.gov.mt/site/page.aspx?pageid=31>

The NSO online statistical database generates time-series data across a wide range of themes. The service is free and offers both view and download options.

Census 2005 Interactive Maps

<http://www.sagisart.info/nso/census2005/>

<http://www.nso.gov.mt/site/page.aspx?pageid=351>

99 interactive maps based on the 2005 Census of Population and Housing.

MEPA Site and Mapserver

<http://www.mepa.org.mt/home?l=1>

A map server depicting base maps, aerial imagery, planning and environment data layers, national and international project outputs. Website also includes a vast amount of documents and information for public consumption. The map server can be found on the right-hand side of the site.

Laws of Malta

<http://justiceservices.gov.mt/lom.aspx?pageid=24>

Site contains all the Laws of Malta. The main MJHA also contains sentencing databases

<http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/courtservices/Judgements/default.aspx>

EEA CDR

<http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/>

<http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/mt>

Contains all the Malta (and EEA members) dataflows to the European Environment Agency, the DG Environment, related EU obligations, Eurostat and OECD material as well as other international flows based on conventions inclusive those pertaining to the United Nations.

EUROSTAT

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/eurostat/home>

One of the main sources of information at European level is the EUROSTAT, of which the Malta National Statistics Office is part of. A European Statistical System (ESS) publishes comparable statistics at EU level.

EUROSTAT Statistical Database

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/statistics/search_database

EU online database enabling querying within the statistical themes and which also has download services and hosts metadata structures.

Sourcing data from these sources and others is encouraged. Of course, researchers are advised to be specific in their requests to such agencies and to avoid such requests as: “anything on flora and fauna”. This request would be too generic and unrealistic, considering that the databases may hold hundreds, if not thousands, of parameters. Most of which will not be of use to the researcher.

Plan your requests well. These should be based on the literature or project requirements review. Researchers should submit specific requests such as: “the number of new species identified between the years 1950 and 2010” or “the areas under developments between 2005 and 2010”.

Such requests reduce the research time taken up by the agencies and also focus the researcher’s field of research. In addition do check whether such data is already available online at the agency’s website.

Questions (refer to Appendix for the answers)

1. John is compiling a study on the British period in Malta. Which are the best archives for him to visit?
2. Melinda is researching particular events that occurred in Malta and Gozo between 1530 and 1899. Which are the best archives for her to visit?
3. Francesca is researching particular events that occurred in Malta between 1107 and 1800. Which are the best archives for her to visit?
4. What would one find at the Department of Information (Malta)?
5. List at least five other public archives in Malta.
6. List the five church archives (in Malta) mentioned in the text.
7. List the three private archives (in Malta) mentioned in the text.
8. Give at least two examples of English archives that could be of interest to a researcher compiling a study on Malta and Gozo.
9. Give at the two examples (mentioned in the text) of Italian archives that could be of interest to a researcher compiling a study on Malta and Gozo.
10. Give at least one example of American archives that could be of interest to a researcher compiling a study on Malta and Gozo.
11. Give at least four examples of important libraries in Malta that could be of interest to a researcher compiling a study on Malta and Gozo.
12. Briefly describe how a researcher's request for data should be.