

New MaLIA Council

CONTENTS

⇒ New MaLIA Council	1
⇒ MaLIA Activities	2
⇒ Academic publications ⇒ Lighter moments	3
⇒ International news on libraries	4
⇒ Editorial ⇒ Special Commemorations	5
⇒ MaLIA in the press ⇒ Malta Libraries Act	6
⇒ More International News ⇒ Local News on Archives	7
⇒ Local News	8

Introducing MaLIA's New Council



Standing (left to right): Victor Vella; Josephine Spiteri; Loreann Avşar; Mary Samut Tagliaferro and Joseph R. Grima. *Seated (left to right):* Cecily Rizzo, Laurence Zerafa and Robert Mizzi

The new Council was elected at the Malta Library & Information Association Annual General Meeting held at the University Library Boardroom on 22nd February 2011. This Council is composed of:

Laurence Zerafa, <i>Chairman</i>	and <i>Members:</i>
Robert Mizzi, <i>Deputy Chairman;</i>	Loreann Avşar, Joseph R. Grima,
Cecily Rizzo, <i>Secretary;</i>	Victor Vella and
Josephine Spiteri, <i>Treasurer</i>	Mary Samut Tagliaferro.

GOOD LUCK to the whole team as it embarks on a year of dedicated service

A SINCERE THANK YOU...

To all loyal members who continue to support MaLIA and to all of you who have remembered to renew your subscription for 2011

AND ...A GENTLE REMINDER

To all of you whose membership has lapsed. Please remember that your monetary support encourages us to continue working for libraries and the library profession. We kindly ask you to renew your membership for this year at your earliest convenience. Renewal membership is €12. Cheques can be made payable to the Malta Library and Information Association and addressed to The Treasurer c/o University Library, Msida MSD 2080.

MaLIA Activities

Annual General Meeting

MaLIA held its Annual General Meeting at the University of Malta Library Boardroom on 22nd February 2011 at 5.30pm. The meeting was chaired by MaLIA Hon. President Dr. Paul Xuereb.

The approval of the 2010 Annual General Meeting was followed by an open discussion based on matters arising from the Chairman's Annual Report. Issues brought up included:

- the Malta Libraries Bill tabled in Parliament by the Hon. Minister Dolores Cristina;
- MaLIA course for library workers at local councils;
- the matter of having a more centrally located Public Library;
- possibility of launching a scholarly journal and of having an online directory of libraries;
- warrants for librarians;
- restructuring at University of Malta with special reference to the setting up of a new Faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences and the Department of Library Information and Archive Sciences and the introduction of full-time day courses leading to an Honours or General degree in Library and Archive Studies as from October 2011.

The Chairman's and Treasurer's Reports were followed by the election of members to serve on Council for a year commencing February 2011. [See front page of this Newsletter]

The new Council gets going...

The following are some of the highlights from the calendar of events for the new Council:

- 28th February: Council holds 1st meeting; posts determined [See front page]
- 12th March: Seminar to set priorities and discuss action plan for 2011
- 4th April: Donation of copies of MaLIA publication *A mosaic of library and archive practice in Malta* to School Library Service for Secondary School libraries. Copies presented to Ms. Marisa Calleja at St Julians Primary School
- 8th April: Donation of copies of the same MaLIA publication to Public Libraries. Presented to Hon. Minister Dolores Cristina in the presence of Mr. Joseph Debattista and Ms. Maroma Camilleri
- 13th April: Meeting with Rev. Prof. S. Chircop and Dr. W. Zammit, Faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences
- 30th April: Tour of the Central Public Library

Acquisition of new Publication

World guide to library, archive and information science associations, 3rd edition

A completely revised edition edited by Alexandra Meinhold

Published by IFLA Publications, IFLA, The Hague, The Netherlands, 2010

The publication is available at the University Library



Academic Publications

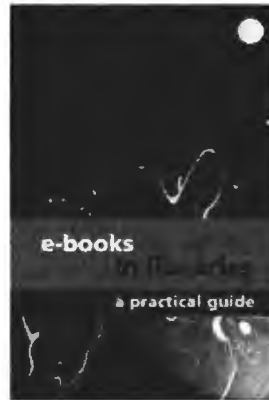


Doing social media so it matters: A librarian's guide
 Laura Solomon
 ISBN: 978-0-8389-1067-2
 Publisher: ALA Editions, 2010

This publication brings together current information on social media in a concise format. This resource provides context on the social media phenomenon, offering practical advice on how libraries can choose, use, and monitor these tools effectively. It also identifies additional resources and best practices.

Laura Solomon presents a unique, to-the-point guidebook for those ready to commence or improve their library's tweeting, posting, and social networking.

Source:
<http://www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=2903>



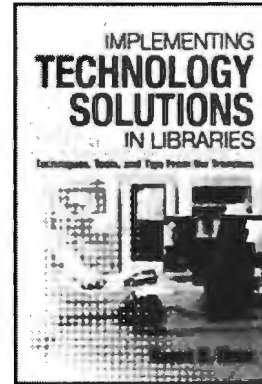
E-books in libraries: A practical guide
 Kate Price and Virginia Havergal, editors
 ISBN: 978-1-85604-572-8
 Publisher: Facet Publishing, 2011

This book provides a practical appraisal of e-books, addressing such key issues as what needs to change before e-books become universally and easily used and how one can be sure of building a good collection that users can access easily.

It is divided into five parts:

- ♦ Production and distribution of e-books
- ♦ Planning and developing an e-book collection
- ♦ Delivering e-books to library readers
- ♦ Engaging readers with e-books
- ♦ The future of e-books

Source:
<http://www.facetpublishing.co.uk/title.php?id=572-8>



Implementing technology solutions in libraries: Techniques, tools and tips from the trenches
 Karen C. Knox
 ISBN: 978-1-57387-403-8
 Publisher: Information Today, Inc., 2011

A guide for anyone seeking a straightforward, hands-on approach to implementing technology solutions in libraries. Karen Knox presents an entire project implementation, from planning to evaluation, carefully examining each step.

The author draws on her experience to help readers identify critical components of any project while modifying and scaling to meet their library's needs. The book includes tips, techniques and tools designed to spell success in technology implementation in libraries.

Source:
<http://books.infotoday.com/books/Implementing-Technology-Solutions.shtml>

Lighter moments

Faced by tough competition from technology, a Publishing House put up the following advert:

A revolutionary breakthrough in technology: wireless, energy saving, no power supply required — **A BOOK** — so easy to use, even a child can operate it. Compact and portable, **BOOKS** can be used anywhere and are powerful enough to hold as much information as a compact disk.

International News on Libraries

SAVE OUR LIBRARIES DAY

On Saturday, 5th February, libraries all over UK organised a number of events to protest at the threatened shutdown of 400 branches as a result of budget cuts. Events included read-ins, talks by authors and storytelling sessions. The campaign was given media coverage, including online publicity.

The Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) supported this day of action and drew up a set of actions for the Secretary of State for Culture, Jeremy Hunt. It also released a statement on the position of the public library service in England and made available on its website resources to support campaigning and advocacy. These included

- Messages on the value of public librarians and professional staff and
- Guidelines on a good public library service

Source: <http://www.cilip.org.uk/get-involved/advocacy/public-libraries/Pages/savelibrariesday.aspx>
<http://www.cilip.org.uk/get-involved/advocacy/public-libraries/Pages/public-library-service-statement.aspx>
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/interactive/2011/feb/01/library-protests-map>



Image from CILIP

STUDENTS PROTECT ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY

During recent unrest in Egypt, students protected the Alexandria Library by holding hands and forming a human shield around the building. Ismail Serageldin, who directs the library, claimed that not a single stone was thrown at the glass façade, stating that the population loves the library.

The new Bibliotheca Alexandrina, located roughly at the same site where the ancient library had stood, was opened in 2002. In less than ten years it has established itself as a gathering place for scientists, literary figures and thinkers from around the world. It comprises four museums, a planetarium, a children's science centre, a library for the blind and eight research institutes. The library also makes use of advanced information technology and houses one of the few archives in the world of every web page on the internet.

Serageldin was reported saying that the library was spreading the values of democracy, freedom of expression, tolerance, diversity and pluralism, which he hoped were taking root in the young generation. According to him, the library has proved to be a key tool in "a battle for the hearts and minds" of Egyptians.

Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704709304576124100786047160.html>

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS OPENS GRAPHIC ARTS GALLERIES

On 18th March 2011, the Library of Congress opened Swann Gallery and the Herblock Gallery, two of three exhibition spaces within its new Graphic Arts Galleries. The third exhibition space is set to open in September 2011.

The galleries will feature cartoon collections, including caricatures, comic strips, political drawings, artwork designed for magazines and graphic novel illustrations. The Library of Congress has been collecting original cartoon art for over 140 years and is a major centre for cartoon research.

Source: <http://www.loc.gov/today/pr/2011/11-062.html>

CAMPAIGN PROMOTING LIBRARIES

The American Library Association is running an initiative aimed at motivating parents to spend quality time with children, especially at the library.

The campaign, called *Connect with your kids @ your library*, calls on parents to spend at least an hour of quality time with one's children. The relevant website is rich with ideas on how families can spend such quality time in the library, at home or within the community.

Source: <http://atyourlibrary.org/connectwithyourkids>
<http://atyourlibrary.org/connectwithyourkids>

Editorial

Dear MaLIA members and friends,

A year has passed since I introduced myself as the new editor of this Newsletter. Now that a new MaLIA Council has been elected and I have accepted to serve as Secretary, I regret that this is probably the last time that I will be addressing you as editor.

Over the past year, it has been my pleasure to present to you snippets of information about the library scene in Malta and about libraries and archives aboard. Unfortunately, in today's fast moving world, editing a quarterly newsletter does present difficulties since news covering the previous three months can be seen as history rather than of news value. I therefore take this opportunity to remind you of the efficient online MaLIA website that not only can keep you updated on current happenings in libraries, but also offers various interesting links.

Dear colleagues, a genuine concern about the library situation in Malta has been at the back of my mind during my term as editor of this newsletter. This was the reason why, besides presenting you with facts and news, I have tried, especially in my editorials, to include some food for thought. At times, I see libraries as small islands floating around in a sea that is bubbling and frothing with activity, in a world screeching for instant gratification, including for knowledge

and information. I'm afraid that at times, the easiest thing would be for us to remain stuck on our tiny islands, expecting others to reach out to us rather than the other way round.

I sincerely hope that we who work in libraries and archives, will strive to be more pro-active in reaching out to our users and will try to keep on promoting the importance of libraries and archives in our society.

With this in mind, I welcome MaLIA's new council, in particular the new faces who, I am sure, will join those who have been serving council over the past years, to attempt to improve, not only the libraries and archives where we work, but also our profession. I would like to thank all those who have served on council and who have done sterling work in the library scene over the years since the association's foundation. Finally I would like to thank all those who, over the past year, have encouraged me and praised me in my work as editor of this newsletter and who keep on believing in my abilities to serve on Council.

Wishing all of you, the very best in your careers and your work,

Cecily Rizzo

Did you know?

**Family Literacy Day held
in Canada
27th January 2011**

Family Literacy Day is organised annually by ABC Life Literacy Canada to celebrate adults and children reading and learning together. The event also serves to encourage Canadians to spend at least 15 minutes every day enjoying a learning activity as a family.

ABC Life Literacy Canada is a non-profit organization that inspires Canadians to increase their literacy skills.

Source: <http://>

abclifeliteracy.ca/en/family-



**11th Annual National Storytelling
Week held in UK
29th Jan—5th February 2011**

literacy-day

The National Storytelling Week was set up by in UK by the Society for Storytelling in 2000. The aim behind this commemoration is to increase public awareness of the art, practice and value of oral storytelling. The event is held annually during the first week of February.

The Society for Storytelling which was established in 1993 aims to support and promote the ancient traditional art form of storytelling.

Source: <http://sfs.org.uk/>

MaLIA in the Press

The librarian as guide to book choices

— letter by Laurence Zerafa, Chairman, Malta Library and Information Association, published in *The Times* on 11th February 2011.

A letter written in reaction to news item titled *Form IV and V students should have access to banned local book* (*The Times*, 4th February 2011). In his contribution, Laurence Zerafa outlined MaLIA's views on the matter of book selection in school libraries and the importance of having qualified librarians in schools, able to deal with such situations. This letter was written following the controversy over Mario Azzopardi's book *Vampir* which had been described as being "banned" from school libraries.

Source: <http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20110211/letters/the-librarian-as-guide-to-book-choices.349660>

If the reader does not go to the library....

MaLIA Chairman, Laurence Zerafa, posted online comments on *timesofmalta.com* in reaction to Editorial titled *If the reader does not go to the library....* This editorial, published in *The Times* on 7th March 2011, acknowledged the importance of the book and the increase in membership at the Central Public Library, but highlighted a number of shortcomings at this institution and stressed the need of making "libraries more enticing while nurturing collections and strengthening the infrastructure".

In his reply, Laurence Zerafa expressed MaLIA's satisfaction that the editorial gave due importance to books and libraries and pointed out that over the years MaLIA has "lobbied for putting into place the essential ingredients that will attract people to use libraries and read", including:

1. A more central location.
2. More attractive modern premises.
3. Appropriate collections, equipment and services.
4. Suitably qualified and trained professional staff.
5. The right legal framework, librarian education and published library standards and
6. The right financial backing.

He concluded by stating that MaLIA was looking forward to the enactment of the new Libraries Act.

Source: <http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20110307/opinion/editorial.353481>

Malta Libraries Act

9th February 2011 — The Hon. Minister of Education, Employment and the Family, Dolores Cristina, introduced the second reading of the Malta Libraries Bill. Points raised included:

- Libraries to fall under the responsibility and management of the National Librarian
- The need of a legal deposit which included audiovisual and electronic media
- Malta Libraries to replace the Public Libraries Department
- New strategies needed to attract more people, especially children and youth, to read more

Speaking during the second reading of the Bill, the opposition spokesman on education, the Hon. Evarist Bartolo noted that:

- Library development was directly linked to the economic, social and cultural development of the country
- Reading and libraries remained important despite technological development
- There was a need for a national strategy about the diffusion of reading.

He also insisted that funds were crucial to the successful running of the sector and claimed that the sector was still starved of the necessary funding.

Source: <http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20110210/local/new-body-to-encourage-reading.349461>; and <http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20110210/local/national-book-council-survey-should-be-allowed-to-strengthen-reading-culture.349463>

More International News

Lord Byron's poem *Farewell to Malta* under the hammer

Bonham in London auctions autograph manuscript of Byron's poem *Farewell to Malta* dated 26th May 1811. The poem was written in Malta at the end of Byron's Grand Tour of the Continent.

The manuscript comprising fifty-six lines, written in a fair, cursive hand, with two textual revisions and signed with Byron's initial was auctioned on 29th March. It sold for £17,400 inclusive of Buyer's Premium



*Adieu ye joys of La Valette!
Adieu Sirocco, Sun, & sweat!
Adieu thou Palace rarely entered!
Adieu ye Mansions where - I've
ventured!
Adieu ye cursed streets of stairs!...*

Source: <http://www.bonhams.com/eur/auction/19386/lot/37/>

Author includes Malta in two books

Chris Kuzneski, an American author, mentioned Malta in two of his novels after he received fan mail from a reader in Malta. The books in which Malta gets mentioned are: *The Lost Throne* and *The Prophecy*.

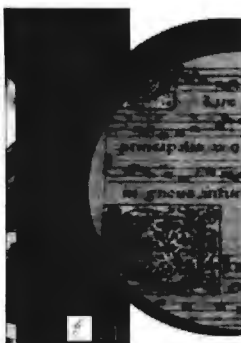


Source: <http://www.independent.com.mt/news.asp?newsitemid=122522>

Local News on Archives

Report on the state of Maltese archives 2010

A publication on the state of Maltese Archives 2010, compiled by the National Archives on behalf of the National Archives Council, was launched during a national forum held at the Institute of Tourism Studies on 9th February 2011.



The launch was hosted by the National Archives Council and was addressed by the Hon. Minister of Education, Employment and the Family, the Hon. Dolores Cristina.

The report is available online at the following web address:

http://www.education.gov.mt/ministry/doc/pdf/national_archives/State_of_Archives_Report_2010.pdf

Source: https://secure2.gov.mt/nationalarchives/Default.aspx?page_info_id=211

Changes to Notarial Archives Act

Parliament unanimously approved Bill which will make possible the removal of documents from the Notarial Archives for cultural, scientific or forensic use.

The *Various Laws (Registry and Notarial Archives) Amendment Bill* makes possible the temporary withdrawal of documents from the Notarial Archives, for not more than 20 days at a time, for cultural, scientific or forensic purposes.

Speaking during the presentation of the Bill, the Parliamentary Secretary, the Hon. Jason Azzopardi, stated it was government's intention to set up a national exhibition of historical records. He also paid tribute to volunteers on the Council for Research in the Notarial Archives for their dedication and work, including the classification, cataloguing and conservation of documents.

Source: <http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20110203/local/house-approves-changes-to-public-registry-and-notarial-archives-acts.348330>

Local News

Public Reading Session

Maureen Freely, an author, journalist and literary translator held a public reading session on 21st January at the Aula Magna of the Old University Building in Valletta.

The event was organised by the Faculty of Arts of the University of Malta in collaboration with the British Council.

Source: <http://www.independent.com.mt/news2.asp?artid=118882>

Donations

A collection of LP classical music records belonging to the late Chev. Albert Salomone was donated by his daughters, Patricia Salomone and Daniela Londner, to the University of Malta Library.

Source: The Sunday Times, 20th March 2011, p.64

Books and other support material were donated by the Ambassadors of Germany and Austria to the German Language Resource Centre at the University of Malta. The presentation was held as part of *Discover University* open week activities.

Source: The Malta Independent on Sunday, 27th March 2011, p.35

Lecture on Storytelling

Inizjamed hosted lecture by Anne Pellowski, a former librarian at the New York Public Library and a renowned author, teacher and storyteller.

The lecture titled *The Story Bag: a world of experiences in storytelling and creating books in minority languages* was held on 28th March at the Old Humanities Building at the University of Malta. It was of special interest to educators, librarians, parents and all those interested in children's literature.

Source: http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/whats_on/lecture-anne-pellowski

George Bernard Shaw at the National Library — article by Charles Micallef, The Sunday Times, 27th March 2011, pp.48-49

Micallef writes about the Irish playwright's visit to the National Library of Malta on 7th March 1931. The visit lasted for around an hour and Shaw took an interest in the treasures at the library, including the illuminated manuscripts, the collection of incunabula and the records of the Knights of St. John.

Clarification

The **School Librarian of the Year for 2010** was awarded by the Schools Library Service to Marcel Zammit Marmarà, library coordinator at Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary School in Naxxar. The library at this higher education institution had been the recipient of the **Library of the Year** award in 2009 and not 2010 as inadvertently stated in MaLIA's Oct-Dec 2010 Newsletter. In 2010 this award



Reading furnishes the mind only with materials of knowledge; it is thinking that makes what we read ours.

John Locke (1632 - 1704)

Source: <http://www.literacyla.org/quotes.htm>

Library and Archive studies at University to undergo a change

A new Faculty of Media and Knowledge Science has recently replaced the Centre for Communication Technology (CCT) at the University of Malta. This development has resulted in the upgrading of the Division of Library and Information Studies, which fell under the CCT, to the Department of Library Information and Archive Sciences. The Dean of the new faculty is the Rev. Prof. Saviour Chircop while the Department of Library Information and Archive Sciences is headed by Dr. William Zammit.

These changes are set to affect library and archive studies at University. In fact, according to the Department's website, it is planned that the current part-time evening diploma courses in library and archive studies are to be "substituted by full-time day courses leading to an Honours or General degree in Library and Archive Studies as from October 2011".

Source: <http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20110328/local/new-faculty-set-up-at-university.357110>

MaLIA
Malta Library & Information Association

c/o University of Malta Library
Msida MSD 2080
Malta.

Email: info@malia-malta.org

Web: www.malia-malta.org

World Book and Copyright Day—23rd April

By celebrating this Day throughout the world, UNESCO seeks to promote reading, publishing and the protection of intellectual property through copyright.

Source: http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=5125&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

www.malia-malta.org