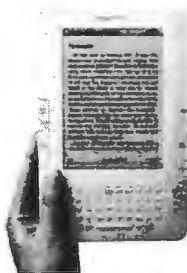


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**Forthcoming MaLIA Activity**  
**Lecture on e-books in libraries**  
Wednesday, 18 January 2012 from 18:00 until 19:00

University Of Malta Main Library Level II

This talk and discussion will be delivered by Ms. Karen Hartman Information Regional Officer attached to the US Embassy in Malta. Two Kindles will be available for use.

<https://www.facebook.com/malia.malta#!/events/190910607670794/>

**EDITORIAL**

A very happy new year to all MaLIA members and readers of this newsletter. 2011 has been a rollercoaster of a year for the library scene in Malta. After many years of waiting, a new Malta Libraries Act was finally enacted and the Malta Libraries Council has been appointed and is already hard at work. MaLIA has ended the year with a flurry of activities, making last month one of the busiest ever with 3 activities in the space of just one week. This is no mean feat for a voluntary organisation that represents a profession still struggling for recognition. Apart from building up on what has already been achieved and keeping the momentum going, MaLIA must now focus on this important matter—the recognition of the profession.

There is no doubt that unless we manage to achieve professional status for qualified library and information professionals, the profession will continue to struggle. We desperately need to have a legal document recognising the profession and establishing who will be recognised as a professional and all the details indicating who qualifies to be recognised as such. There are other professions who have managed this and MaLIA has been knocking on doors for many years now but if there is one thing I have learnt being on Council, it is that despite being a voluntary organisation with practically no resources, we have to come up with the goods. If we do not do it for ourselves, no one will.

If we do achieve professional status, it will indeed be a milestone for the existing qualified persons in employment. It would also mean opening new possibilities for the prospective library and archives students at the University of Malta. Last year also saw a major change in the local scene in the area of library and archive education. We now have a faculty (Media and Knowledge Sciences) that offers only day courses. The evening courses are gone and now more than ever, we need to raise the awareness on the importance of having qualified library and information professionals in both the public and private sector. Our biggest challenge is to eradicate the notion (which is still prevalent) that anyone can be a librarian, a records officer, an archives officer, a document management or knowledge management professional etc. Library and Information professionals are more than just book-stamping clerks. We know it, but do people out there know it??

The solution, in my opinion, lies in a three-pronged approach. Achieving professional status for qualified persons, marketing the profession in non-conventional ways, and ensuring that qualified persons undergo regular professional development training that raises their profile within their working environment. Unfortunately, there are some qualified library and information professionals who are not interested in continuing education just because they did a Dip. LIS ten or twenty years ago. Well, I've got news for you—our profession has changed. And unless we change accordingly, acquiring new skills and keeping abreast of the latest developments, we may never be able to eradicate the stigma that librarians are nothing more than glorified clerks.

*Robert Mizzi*



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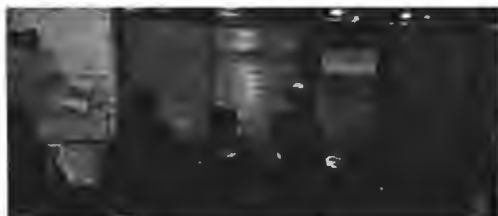
<https://www.facebook.com/malia.malta>

[www.malia-malta.org](http://www.malia-malta.org)



# MaLIA Activities

Public Talk on  
"Document storage: Principles and Practice"  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2011



MaLIA Christmas Event 2011  
Sunday Lunch 18<sup>th</sup> December 2011  
at the Golden Tulip Vivaldi Hotel



Gozo Short Course for public library workers  
Presentation night—15 December 2011

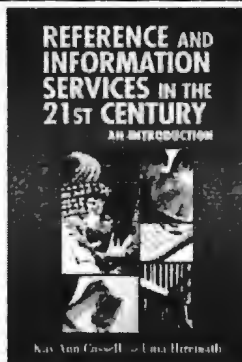


## December 2011



The next Annual General Meeting of MaLIA will be held on the 24 February 2012 at the University of Malta Library at 5.30 pm. The second AGM notice and all the documents will be posted in the coming weeks. Mark the date on your diaries!

## New Publications @ UoM Library

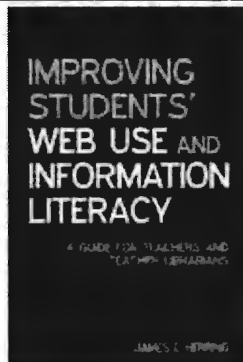


**Reference and information services in the 21st century : an introduction** / Kay Ann Cassell and Uma Hiremath, Facet, 2011. ISBN 9781856047784

This book supercedes previous reference texts with an all new approach to reference service and coverage of essential topics for today's professional.

This unique introduction is the only reference textbook to specify the top resources in major subject areas and genres and show students how to approach the reference transaction by matching specific types of questions to the best available resources regardless of format.

Z711.C355 2011



**Improving students' Web use and information literacy : a guide for teachers and teacher librarians** / James E. Herring, Facet, 2011. ISBN 9781856047432

This book fulfils that need by providing a practical guide to using the web effectively in order to enhance learning and teaching in schools. It does this by focusing on the knowledge and skills needed by teachers and teacher librarians to be information literate web users and to develop these abilities in their students. It then focuses on using Web 2.0 tools to create learning resources for students which will develop them as reflective web learners as well as web users.

Z711.2.H47

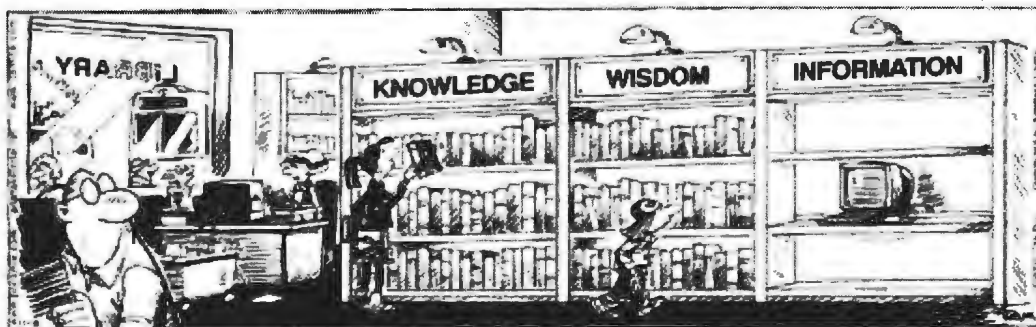


**The future of archives and recordkeeping : a reader** / edited by Jennie Hill, Facet, 2011. ISBN 9781856046664

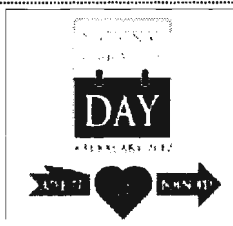
With increasing interest from outside of the profession, the idea of archives as the static, impartial carriers of truth and the archivist as a guardian of records has been questioned: how can society take greater control over its own written memory? There have been a number of other changes which have impacted upon the way archivists conceive of themselves and the way in which they work. Chief among these are the rapid rise of technology and the challenges this poses, and the changing place of archives within related fields, such as records and information management.

CD950.F875

## Lighter moments



## International News on Libraries and Archives



### UK: National Libraries Day logo unveiled

"Use it, Love it, Join it!" will be the strapline for National Libraries Day, to be held in the UK on 4th February 2012. The strapline and a logo have been made available from Flickr under creative commons licence for everyone to use in promoting their events and activities on the day. The three elements of the line encapsulate what librarians and library users are being encouraged to do on the day, billed by CILIP as "a celebration of all the wonderful, inspirational, essential things that libraries do and the contribution they make to society".

Librarians are being encouraged to put on author talks or workshops showcasing what the library offers, while library users are urged to get all their friends and family members to join on the day, and involve themselves in locally organised activities. Everyone is being encouraged to find ways to express what libraries and librarians mean to them, whether by tweeting, making cards or producing videos or songs. A dedicated website ([www.nationallibrariesday.org.uk](http://www.nationallibrariesday.org.uk)) for resources and links to help people get involved will be up and running ahead of Christmas. *Source: <http://www.thebookseller.com/news/national-libraries-day-logo-unveiled.html>*

### Library news: a place to discuss the latest from the library world (<http://news.librarycloud.org>)

Library news is a relatively new website based on the popular technology site, Hacker News (and using the same Open Source software; it's like Hacker News but blue). It's a place that you can post and discuss news stories, blogs and other websites of interest to the library world.

Library News was developed by the Harvard Library Innovation Laboratory. Like Hacker News (and Reddit, Digg etc), there's an element of gamification. You can vote for the submitted stories or comments that you find interesting and others can vote for your submissions and comments. Popular stories float to the top and up-votes for your contributions will give you more karma points.

It's early days yet in terms of discussion on the site but there's a steady flow of submissions and it would be great to see this turn into a lively library community – don't be afraid to comment as well as post. *Source: <https://mmitblog.wordpress.com/2011/11/29/library-news-a-place-to-discuss-the-latest-from-the-library-world/>*

### Experience rare medieval 'Sacred' texts with the latest British Library eBook Treasures

The Luttrell Psalter, William Tyndale's New Testament and Sultan Baybar's Qur'an are the latest in the series of eBook Treasures to be released by the British Library. iPad users will be able to enjoy viewing this exquisite

treasure in close up detail. The written and audio interpretative material brings the manuscript to life helping the users begin to understand the beauty and significance of this outstanding treasure.

The eBook also includes a 20 minute film produced by WAG Screen, inspired by the images contained in the margins of the Psalter.

*Source: <http://pressandpolicy.bl.uk/Press-Releases/Experience-rare-medieval-Sacred-texts-with-the-latest-British-Library-eBook-Treasures-545.aspx>*

### Europeana Collections 1914-1918: Remembering the First World War

Europeana Collections 1914-1918 will create by 2014 – the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War - a substantial digital collection of material from national libraries and other partners from eight countries that found themselves on different sides of the historic conflict. *See: <http://www.europeana-collections-1914-1918.eu/>*

### Task Force to Update SLA's Competencies for the Information Professional

SLA President Cindy Romaine has appointed a task force of prominent SLA members to update SLA's Competencies for Information Professionals of the 21st Century. The task force will refresh and revamp this guide, giving information professionals a consistent grounding on which to base their skill-development and career growth initiatives. *Source: [http://slablogger.typepad.com/sla\\_blog/2011/11/task-force-appointed-to-update-slas-competencies-for-the-information-professional.html](http://slablogger.typepad.com/sla_blog/2011/11/task-force-appointed-to-update-slas-competencies-for-the-information-professional.html)*

## A day in the life of... Ruth Muscat

**Knowledge Resources Librarian at the Royal Free Hospital Medical Library,  
University College London**

I usually get into the office between 9.00 and 9.30 am, depending on how cold and grey the morning is and how temperamental public transport is feeling. I generally spend the first half-hour checking my emails over the first cup of tea of the day. My boss is a bit of a night owl so there are often a few notes that need fairly prompt action, but I also follow a number of professional mailing lists which I find to be an excellent tool for staying up to date with what's going on in the profession.

Having eased myself into the day relatively gently, it's time to do a bit of user training. I am one of two senior members of staff heading the Information Support Team, and between us we manage three professionally qualified assistant librarian grades. My remit is to lead on information support to the full range of hospital staff, from senior managers and top consultants, through doctors in training, nurses and allied health professionals (some of our most frequent users), to junior grades such as healthcare assistants. My colleague Anna, meanwhile, performs a similar function with an emphasis on our university users, again spanning a range from undergraduate and postgrad/research students to academic staff and a significant body of researchers. In practice, a big part of information support translates into training users on identifying the best resources for their particular needs, using them effectively and managing the information they retrieve. We therefore have a rolling program of training sessions on database searching, information resources to support evidence-based clinical practice, evaluating research and using reference management software. However, we are acutely aware that clinicians' first priority is patient care and often they can't get away from the ward or clinic at the times we have our scheduled sessions. So we have a high demand for one-to-one and ad hoc training, which can take place at the user's convenience and sometimes in the user's workplace – and occasionally even at a patient's bedside!

Once my 9.30 am appointment has been and gone, now much wiser in the advanced features of PubMed (or so I hope), there's just time for my next cup of tea before I scoot off to the Clinical Audit and Effectiveness Committee (CAEC) meeting. Clinical audit is a vital part of ensuring high quality patient care and involves an ongoing process of monitoring various aspects of what is being done in the hospital, based on national and local targets. It is underpinned by a body of clinical guidelines, again some of which are national and some written locally. The hospital is divided into four Clinical Divisions, each with a

Clinical Governance Facilitator, and the CAEC comprises the committee Chair, these four facilitators, plus several departmental representatives – and me. My role is twofold: I'm there to offer information support for ongoing audits and guidelines in development and to advise on guideline writing, and I also help index and upload new guidelines to the hospital intranet. It's quite a challenge to get a non-clinician onto this sort of high-level committee and it's hugely valuable that my manager pulled it off – it has undeniably increased awareness and use of the resources the library offers, and it has done so with strategically key people who are in a position to disseminate the information widely and with authority – to become our strategic champions, in effect.

I'm back in the office before my stomach starts to rumble too loudly – time for lunch! I'm incredibly lucky to work within five minutes of Hampstead Heath and today is a fine, mild day so I'll take a slightly longer lunch than usual and sit on the grass in the sun by the duck pond with my crossword and watch the world go by for a bit.

Sadly my hour in the sun is over all too quickly, and I have to get back inside for a service development discussion with my manager. We've recently appointed a new staff member to a long-vacant Clinical Support Librarian role which I line manage, and that means I can finally get our Clinical Librarian service off the ground. There are various clinical librarian models in use, depending on local user needs and available resources; in our case, Caroline and myself need to serve an acute NHS Trust with a 4000-strong staff complement, so what we're thinking of doing is targeting each Clinical Division at quite a high level, with each of us acting as a named first point of contact for two divisions, and tailoring an offer to each Division's particular needs. This will be based on discussion of user needs with key people at or near the top of the organisational structure and keeping in line with the Trust's overall strategy and 5-year plan.

Once that meeting is over I use the last hour of the day to have a catch-up with the other member of staff I manage, the Outreach Librarian. He is currently working on a project to radically revamp the way we deliver our updating and current awareness service to make it far more interactive, collaborative and user-led. If the project goes well we're hoping to present a paper about it at an upcoming medical librarianship conference.

And with that, it's home time – it's been a long but very productive day!



<https://www.facebook.com/malia.malta>

## Managing your law firm library and information service

(course attended by Robert Mizzi, Corporate Librarian at Ganado & Associates, Advocates)

A report on a course for law librarians is probably a first for this newsletter. For starters, law librarians in Malta are a very rare species. In fact, if there are any other local law librarians reading this, please do get in touch.

I am however convinced that the work done by library and information professionals in the various scenarios they are employed in, does overlap and I would go as far as saying that certain functions of our work transcend even the borders of the traditional corporate libraries vis-à-vis public libraries in the ever-changing scenario we are living in.

The one day course was held in London on the 12 October 2011 at the Kingsway Hotel. No less than 45 participants from various law firms participated. As I anticipated, I was the only one coming from a Maltese law firm.

The day kicked off with a session on the management of resources in line with the strategic priorities of the firm. Special emphasis was made on the importance of understanding the needs of the users and the business environment. The second session focused on the changing role of legal librarian. No surprise here, to hear that we need to focus on the services rather than the book shelving aspect of our work. Nevertheless, it was interesting to learn about certain idiosyncrasies belonging to law librarians and the services they offer.

After the coffee break, an interesting initiative was presented. A network of law firm libraries has been formed with the intention of bulk purchasing from publishers. A critical analysis of pros and cons of online versus hardcopy subscriptions provided another interesting topic just before the lunch break.

After the lunch break, a practical session on negotiating skills with suppliers provided some interesting and varying perspectives from the conclusions of the groups. Whilst this aspect of work may not be the everyday routine for most of us, it is an aspect that requires certain skills especially for solo librarians who have to deal with all aspects of library work.

The next session focused on our role to empower users of our services to be become, as much as possible, self-sufficient. Interesting suggestions on short training sessions for the busy professionals were discussed. Grabbing the attention of lawyers is not an easy task, not by any stretch of the imagination, but it is an important task that corporate librarians in general have to take on board.

After yet another coffee break, the copyright aspect of the librarian's work was discussed and some very interesting scenarios were presented. Inevitably, the handling of electronic documents and the new challenges they present took centre stage. The day was rounded off with a crucial topic in today's dire economic scenario. How do we present the value of our services to our bosses? Feedback, communication and value added services were all mentioned.

This is obviously a very short overview of the content of the course and not intended to give a detailed account of all sessions. It should however help readers to understand that that there are aspects of our work that are uniform, no matter what type of library you work in. And by the way, most of the participants were not lawyers, but qualified library and information professionals – just like me!

## IFLA News



### Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR): 23rd Session

The 23rd session of the World Intellectual Property Organization's Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) ended on 2nd December 2011. IFLA welcomes the significant progress made by WIPO Member States towards achieving a global set of copyright limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives.

*Read more at <http://www.ifla.org/en/node/6063>*

### 13 December 2011: UNESCO endorses the IFLA Manifesto for Digital Libraries.

UNESCO has endorsed the IFLA Manifesto for Digital Libraries at its General Conference 2011. The Manifesto provides principles to assist libraries in undertaking sustainable and interoperable digitisation activities to bridge the digital divide - a key factor in achieving the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations. Digital libraries are essential for access to information, and for preserving national heritage.

*Read more at <http://www.ifla.org/en/news/unesco-endorses-the-ifla-manifesto-for-digital-libraries>.*

### Beyond the United Nations Decade of Literacy: what libraries can do

#### Literacy and Reading Section with National Libraries

World Library and Information Congress : 77th IFLA General Conference and Assembly

<http://conference.ifla.org/past/ifla77/literacy-and-reading-section-with-national-libraries.htm>

## Technology News

### Electronic Readership Going Up (VIDEO)

Daryl Kirkland-Morgan

Electronic book usage is on the rise, and Southern Tier (US) libraries are staying on the cutting edge of technology. Through new workshops and even some one-on-one tutorials, libraries are helping avid readers adjust to the changing medium.

<http://www.weny.com/News-Local.asp?>

ARTICLE3864=9163259

### RFID and Libraries: Both Sides of the Chip

Karen G. Schneider

Director, Librarians' Index to the Internet, <http://lii.org>  
Chair, California Library Association Intellectual Freedom  
Committee

<http://www.ala.org/offices/sites/ala.org.offices/files/content/oif/ifissues/rfidbothsideschip.pdf>

### Book Cleaning Equipment

As seen in use at the British Library and now available in North America, Depulvera book cleaning equipment will safely clean exterior dust from rare books in Special Collections with a moveable machine which can be taken in to the stacks for ease of use. A special HEPA vacuum is attached to equipment so that dust is contained and not redistributed.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ghoo72Gm1e0>



RDA: Resource Description and Access is the new standard for resource description and access designed for the digital world. Built on the foundations established by AACR2, RDA provides a comprehensive set of guidelines and instructions on resource description and access covering all types of content and media.

The project is overseen by the Committee of Principals representing:

- American Library Association
- Canadian Library Association
- CILIP: Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals
- Library of Congress
- Library and Archives Canada
- British Library
- National Library of Australia

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

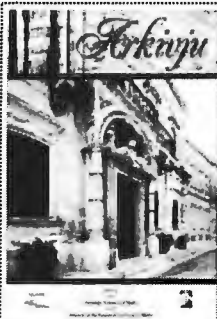


## EBLIDA NEWS: 20th Annual Conference Democracy Development in a New Media Environment

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

The 20th Conference of EBLIDA aims to draw the attention of the European Union both to the risks and threats at stake for libraries and their patrons, and therefore also to the citizens of Europe with the current situation in the volatile market of e-books in which libraries have very few rights. At the moment the current situation is that the acquisition policy may be decided by the publishers and not by the library, meaning a threat to access to information, and by extension to democracy. Therefore it is time for library organisations to take actions and to advocate for more rights in the increasing market of e-books before it is too late. During this day of conference, EBLIDA will give you the word through active workshops where you will have the opportunity to share your thoughts and opinions and to work on possible solutions that might enable libraries to evolve in a balanced environment.

## Local News on Archives



ARKIVJU - Issue 2

ARKIVJU: An academic journal published by the National Archives and the Friends of the National Archives.

The price of this journal is € 8.00 for the general public, while fully paid members of the Friends of the National Archives can collect their free copy from the National Archives' Main Office in Rabat.

## Local Media News

The Sunday Times, November 20, 2011  
Is 'shhh! silence' the future for libraries?

Will e-book lending push libraries out of print, asks Josianne Facchetti

<http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20111127/technology/Is-shhh-silence-the-future-for-libraries-.395927>

The Sunday Times, November 13, 2011  
€25,000 boost for children's basic literacy support project

The Nwar basic literacy skills tuition programme in which over 25 children in primary and secondary schools and their carers take taking part this year, will benefit a €25,000 sponsorship from the HSBC Malta Foundation.

<http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20111113/education/-25-000-boost-for-children-s-basic-literacy-support-project.393478>

DOI Press Release—PR 2455  
16. 12. 2011

ZIEDA SOSTANZJALI FIS-SELF TA' KOTBA MIL-LIBRERJI PUBBLICI F'GHAWDEX

[http://www.doi.gov.mt/en/press\\_releases/2011/12/pr2455.pdf](http://www.doi.gov.mt/en/press_releases/2011/12/pr2455.pdf)

The Sunday Times, November 13, 2011  
Kindle e-reader

<http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20111127/technology/Read-on.395931>

Most people are familiar with the Kindle set of eReader devices. They are absolutely great for people who read a lot, but don't want to be confined by carrying around only one book.

The Times, November 10, 2011  
No Maltese, thank you, Amazon tells publisher

<http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20111110/local/No-Maltese-thank-you-Amazon-tells-publisher.393051>

The Bibliotheca on the itinerary of December cultural tour

<http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20111202/christmas-events/have-a-capital-christmas.396432>

Valletta was the location for the second Malta Council for Culture and the Arts cultural tour programme. The tour, which was held on Sunday, 11th December, included also the National Library.

Reading club for adults

<http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20111030/books/Reading-club-for-adults.391638>

Bibliophiles are invited to join the reading club of the Alliance Française de Malte – Méditerranée.

## MaLIA News

- ♦ As announced earlier in this issue, the Annual General Meeting of the MaLIA will take place on Friday 24 February 2012.
- ♦ MaLIA's next activity is also advertised on the front of this newsletter and will include a talk by the visiting Ms. Karen Hartman, Information Regional Officer attached to the US Embassy in Malta. This talk is being organised in cooperation with the University of Malta Library and the Faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences. Plus the US Embassy in Malta, of course!
- ♦ MaLIA is in the process of finalizing a set of guidelines for public libraries. This important document is expected to be launched during the first half of 2012.
- ♦ Following the success of the visit and discussion at Rentastore, MaLIA is planning more similar activities for its members and the public in general.
- ♦ MaLIA has relaunched it's Facebook page and all activities of MaLIA will be advertised on this page.
- ♦ A new website for MaLIA is also in the pipeline. We are hoping that it will be ready by the next AGM and one of the main features will be the synchronization with other social media that will enable MaLIA to keep in touch with all its members and friends.
- ♦ Work on the new edition of the directory of libraries and information units in Malta is also under way.
- ♦ Ms Jacqueline Madeya, a visiting student via an EU Programme, has offered to do 24 hours of voluntary work for MaLIA. Having a graphic design background, Jacqueline is designing a new brochure for MaLIA and doing other design work for MaLIA publications. Thanks Jacqueline.

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CHECK THIS OUT!!!

<http://blog.libraryjournal.com/annoyedlibrarian/>

The Annoyed Librarian is possibly the most successful, respected, and desirable librarian of her generation. She has no other interest than to bring her wit and wisdom to the huddled librarian masses yearning to breathe free. The Annoyed Librarian is a free spirit and you are lucky to have her.

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