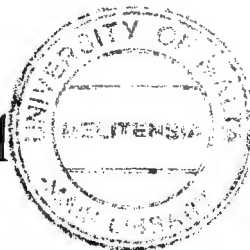




INFORMALIA

*Newsletter of the
Malta Library and
Information Association (MaLIA)*



*Issue 116
March—June 2006*

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**Have you renewed
your 2006
membership?**

**Charles V Exhibition at
The National Library
Open: 8.00am -1.00 pm
until 8 September**

The National Library in Valletta is holding an exhibition of manuscripts related to Emperor Charles V (King Charles I of Spain) who in 1530 donated Malta to the Knights of St John. The exhibition, entitled Carolus Rex Imperator, was inaugurated on May 27th and is being held in collaboration with the Valenzia's Jaume II el Just Foundation and the Amigos de Malta association in Valenzia. Among the manuscripts being exhibited is the deed of donation with which Charles V donated the islands as a fief to the Order of St John, which had been looking for a permanent home after its expulsion from Rhodes in 1522. The exhibition has already pulled crowds in Valldigna, Spain, and Arpino, Italy. Maltapost has issued a commemorative postage stamp to mark the exhibition, in collaboration with the Circulo Cultural Hispano-Maltes and the National Library.

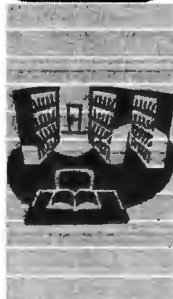
EDITORIAL

This has been a busy time for MaLIA. After issuing its report on the state of Maltese libraries, a number of meetings have materialized in particular one with the Minister of Education in which key library concerns were raised. A follow up meeting was held and it is hoped that through such cooperation solutions and radical action will be implemented to improve the quality and standards of Malta's library services. Government support is urgently needed as libraries in Malta are still regarded as peripheral rather than central to educational services.

Sadly, few librarians attended a forum in June to discuss the limitations and challenges highlighted in the MaLIA report. A draft set of resolutions was drawn up and approved at an early July meeting. These will be presented to the Ministry of Education and to decision-makers involved in providing services at the National Library, in public, academic and school libraries and in those who administer special collections. It is an ambitious undertaking that involves creating contacts with several bodies.

The resolutions which will be reproduced in the next newsletter issue call for urgent action on new library legislation; cooperation among all entities concerned; library standards and guidelines; adequate budget allocations; a national bibliographic centre; more qualified and trained staff and the provision of ICT in libraries. We await steps in the right direction.

Have a good summer.



**Buy your copy now
at LM2.25
including postage**

**MaLIA Report
on the State of
Maltese Libraries**

Local News

EU family literacy project

The Foundation for Educational Services (FES) is one of seven project partners that is involved in a European Union project called QualiFly on quality in family literacy. This is coordinated by the Unesco Institute for Education and supported by the EU in the framework of the Grundtvig strand of the Socrates Programme for the period 2005-2007. The FES has pioneered family literacy practices in Malta and has trained many teachers in this innovative method of working with families to promote learning support. A project meeting for all partner representatives was held in Malta earlier this month. The website of the project is www.unesco.org/education/uie/QualiFLY/



Online anthology for Maltese poetry

Poezijaplus and AZ Creations are working on an ambitious project of creating an online anthology for Maltese poetry. "Maltese poetry is much more alive than we think. More people are attending regularly the monthly events held by *Poezijaplus*. This is *Poezijaplus*' seventh year of activity. Each year it presents no fewer than 11 literary evenings and people just keep coming," the organisation's PRO, Sergio Grech said. AZ Creations are sponsoring this. Every poet will have a page for himself/herself in the website. The page will consist of a photo, two poems (one in Maltese and the other in any foreign language) and the poets' URL and e-mail. In this way a permanent database will be created, the promoters said. Those interested can send their details to sergiogrech@yahoo.com.

National Book Prize

A reform of the existing literary prize by the National Book Council, a website, the publication of a report and a literary evening are among the immediate projects of the council. The change of name of the Literary Prize to the National Book Prize is intended to widen the catchment area of the prize, covering all aspects of book production. In its planned reform, the council is intending to start new categories to avoid potential injustices in which different genre books compete for the same prize. The council is also proposing a life achievement award for Maltese authors. The traditional prizes for drama, poetry and research will be retained.



Printing Association

Margaret Buhagiar is the President of the Malta Printing Industry Association. The other council members are secretary Anton Cassar, treasurer John Mifsud and members Peter Galea, Ronald Agius, Carmel Bonnici and Massimo Schiavone. The main objective of the association is to enhance the sector's competitiveness by encouraging collaboration and joint initiatives among printing establishments in Malta.

Publisher calls for incentives

The Prime Minister was briefed about the challenges the local book industry is facing during a visit to Midsea Books at the end of June. This coincided with the 35th anniversary of *Klabb Kotba Maltin* (KKM) set up by Paul Mizzi in 1971. His company, Midsea Books, set up in 1975, publishes academic studies in English, guide books and history books about Malta.

Joseph Mizzi, managing director of both companies said the book publishing industry was suffering from various setbacks. Tariffs on books were the same as



all other items which means that mailing books abroad is prohibitively expensive resulting in a loss of sales. While the export manufacturing industry was given incentives, these did not apply to book publishers. He suggested that book publishers should have the status of a cultural operator. The 5% VAT paid on books should be reinvested in buying books for libraries or initiatives in favour of reading. Publishers were also facing loans at high interest from banks when publishing books that were tourism-related. KKM is due to launch its online bookshop: www.midseabooks.com

Major facelift for heritage museums

Among its major capital projects to enhance some of the state-owned museums and heritage sites it manages, Heritage Malta is also working on the setting up of a fine arts reference library in the new annex of the National Museum of Fine Arts in Valletta. The idea is to offer an improved service to the public and to support the museum in its research activity. The library would permit an updated and extensive interpretation and re-evaluation of the national collection of paintings, sculptures, prints and engravings, silverware, furniture, majolica and other artefacts.

Sliema branch library donation

Bank of Valletta has donated a collection of books to the Sliema branch library. The bank was one of the first organisations to respond positively to the appeal by the Sliema council to donate books in support of their new library which opened a few months ago. Bank of Valletta regularly donates books to local and regional libraries.

Malta stamp collection donation

Maltapost presented two Malta stamp collections: one to the National Library and the other to the Gozo Public Library. Issued shortly after Malta's accession to the EU on May 1, 2004, they contain a wealth of material relating to the postal history of these islands. The 380-page album includes most of the stamps in mint format issued between the independence of Malta in 1964 and its accession to the EU in 2004 together with annotations and essays covering various aspects of life in Malta.



MaLIA News and Events

compiled by Heather Brown,
Hon. Secretary, MaLIA

Since the launch of the 'Report on the State of Maltese Libraries' members of the MaLIA Council have participated in several productive meetings, concerned with improving the quality of library services in Malta.



2nd May Meeting with Minister of Education

Robert Mizzi, Joseph Grima and Heather Brown represented MaLIA at a meeting with the Minister of Education Dr Louis Galea, the Permanent Secretary, Mr Francis Borg and the Director of Policy, Ms Micheline Sciberras at the Ministry of Education. Mr Philip Borg, Director of Libraries and Archives, also attended. This meeting was finally convened after repeated unsuccessful requests since 2004, culminating in a letter highlighting the issue in the *Times of Malta*. The main points discussed were the contribution library professionals could make, and should be invited to make, to the formation of policy on libraries; the need for recognition of librarianship as a profession; the need for guidelines for minimum standards in libraries, and the importance of library training.

The Minister acknowledged there were misconceptions about libraries and librarians, agreed in principle to the need for the profession to be recognised and commended the MaLIA Report. Library legislation drafted in 2004 (to which MaLIA had at the time sent considerable feedback) was still 'on hold'. The most positive outcome of this meeting was a further meeting on 12th June with Ms M. Sciberras and the same representatives of MaLIA to discuss the issues further. It is envisaged that this will be the first of a series of ongoing meetings hopefully establishing a new working relationship between the Ministry and MaLIA.



15th May Feasibility Study on Library Portal

A meeting between MaLIA Council members Robert Mizzi and Heather Brown with Mr Timothy Zrinzo of PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PWC) was held regarding the feasibility of a MIIT project to set up a library portal that will include a single entry point to the collections of the main libraries in Malta. PWC are in the process of consulting with a number of relevant bodies and individuals and it is envisaged that ultimately all parties would need to meet together to consider the proposal in more detail. MaLIA has offered its assistance in all stages and is strongly in favour of this project being developed with the cooperation of all entities involved.



5th June Digital Video Conference

A digital video link up was held at the American Embassy and delivered by Mr Joe Thompson, project coordinator of the Maryland 'AskUsNow' online

interactive reference service. This event was organised by KILP - Kummissjoni Għall-Izvilupp ta' Libreriji Pubblici - Commission for the Development of Public Libraries through the initiative of its member Robert Mizzi. Some 12 or so persons attended including the Director of Libraries, Mr Philip Borg, Mr Joe Debattista, Officer-in-Charge of Public Libraries, members of KILP, branch librarians and other members of the MaLIA Council. An interactive presentation was made of the library services offered at Baltimore County Public Library, Maryland. These include an online 24 hours 7 days a week reference service. The presentation was followed by questions and a discussion.



9th June Seminar: The Experiences of Public Libraries

This event was organised by KILP and held in Gozo. Robert Mizzi, representing MaLIA, made a presentation on the importance of resource sharing and the principles and benefits of an interlibrary loan service were explained from a practical point of view.



14th June MaLIA Forum: 'Malta's libraries: a challenge to change?'

Despite press announcements and the issue of over 300 invitations to what had been promoted as a key event in the development of library services in Malta following publication of the Report, just 20 persons were present for the discussion of the Report's recommendations. The high quality of debate, however, led to some pivotal proposals being put forward which it is intended to incorporate in a set of resolutions at a further meeting on 3rd July. These resolutions will appear in the next newsletter issue.



16th June Malta Qualifications Recognition

Meeting of MaLIA Council, represented by Robert Mizzi, Joseph Grima and Heather Brown at the Malta Qualifications Recognition Information Centre with the director Mr Degiovanni and his colleagues. This comprised an initial discussion to clarify the procedure required to set in motion the recognition of librarianship as a profession. The outcome was positive, and the director was encouraging and expressed willingness to assist MaLIA with further consultation during the administrative process.



Basic Library Skills course next October

MaLIA will be organising a short introductory course on basic library skills for persons working in libraries that have little or no training at all. This will be held during the months of October and November 2006. More details to follow in the next newsletter.



Report on the COMLA/UNESCO workshop on Information Literacy for public librarians across the Commonwealth

by Robert Mizzi
Hon. Chairman, MaLIA

During the month of October 2005, one of the e-mails I received included an invitation to a COMLA/UNESCO workshop with the above theme. A quick consultation with other council members and COMLA secretary Mrs. Amenu Kpodo convinced me to submit my application to attend this workshop as MaLIA representative. So, early on the morning of Wednesday 25th January I boarded a flight to Gatwick from where I got my connection to Kingston. My first transatlantic flight went well despite the 9 hours and so I landed in Jamaica on a very warm January afternoon. Unusual, even by our standards.

Before the actual commencement of the workshop, all participants were invited to the AGM of the Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA). This was held on Friday 27th January at 9.30 am. Immediately, a very simple but basic question came to mind. How is it that the AGM is held on the morning of a working day? The answer, though making a lot of sense, is well beyond the local way of thinking. The employers, it seems, are on excellent terms with the association and agree to give their employees a special allowance to attend the library association AGM during working hours. Lesson one.

The pre-workshop programme included two intensive half-days, the first focusing on teaching skills (yes, public librarians need to have basic teaching skills as well!!) and the other on presentations by all participants about Information Literacy (IL) practices in their countries. During my presentation, I emphasized the fact that IL is not the same as user education and despite the fact that a few user education practices were found in Malta, the concept of IL activities was still relatively new to our public libraries. I also highlighted the fact that a change in mentality is needed - the role of public libraries must be discussed and agreed upon by all parties involved. Otherwise, talking about IL in public libraries is going to be just a pie in the sky.

This session was in fact another eye-opener. Despite Malta being a developed country and most countries in the Caribbean being classified as developing countries (at least that is what the World Bank states), we are definitely not more developed than these countries in public library services. In fact, it seems that we are pretty much at the early development stage. Lesson number two.

The afternoons of these two days included excursions that were greatly appreciated by participants, especially since it was a weekend. At least we could claim to have seen a little bit of Jamaica. The proper

workshop commenced on the 30th January with registration and an opening ceremony. What followed were four days of intensive but interesting presentations, discussions and also training on basic web authoring. It is not really possible to present all details in this short report but I'll try to give a very brief overview of the topics covered and the outcome of the workshop in the following paragraphs.

1. Information Literacy in an Information Society

This session included an overview of the need for IL and how it goes beyond library skills. The importance of understanding the concept of knowledge building was mentioned. The most important aspect to emerge was the need to assess the environment in which we have to deliver the services to users, in other words, making IL relevant to the real needs of users in an Information Society.

2. Information Literacy in the Public Library setting: challenges and constraints

The case study was based on a New York Public Library. Perhaps not exactly an ideal model for participants from small states but nevertheless an eye opener in terms of how public libraries have changed their services and are facing new challenges, especially those concerned with staff training.

3. The Jamaica Library Service & Information Literacy

This was an interesting session from the local point of view. The Jamaica Library Service is pretty much based on the same lines of the Maltese public library system with a number of parish and branch libraries forming the public library system. Emphasis is being made on supporting the formal education system and reaching the wider public. A number of activities including user education, readings skills programmes, summer programmes, national reading competitions and ICT skills are already in operation. The focus of future activities will include a coordinated approach to IL courses. This is certainly a wider vision of what public libraries are there for than the one we have locally - despite their limited resources. Lesson number three.

4. Search strategies / the WWW / the research process

The three sessions included the concept of information as available in various formats, methods of effective searching for information and research processes with a focus on children. The emphasis here was on making users self sufficient in their information needs. Rather than finding information for the user, the focus is placed on imparting knowledge of basic techniques to the user. A number of modules were presented, discussed and evaluated by the participants.

5. Introduction to web authoring

The final part of the workshop included basic training on web authoring such as building and publishing web pages and was particularly appreciated by a number of participants that have human resource and financial limitations. The sessions allowed participants to gain basic skills in html publishing.

Conclusion

The hospitality showed by the Jamaican colleagues was something that I'll treasure for years to come. Mrs. Amenu Kpodo, the COMLA General Secretary was always at our disposal and participants were made to feel at home. Meeting colleagues from twelve other countries and exchanging ideas and knowledge was a unique experience. A number of modules were prepared and finalized during the workshop. These have been sent to UNESCO for approval. A training kit

will be developed and sent to participants who in turn will be expected to transfer the knowledge gained to public librarians in their countries.

During my final comments (I was one of the two participants elected to deliver the final comments to the workshop) I emphasized the need to keep contact and continue learning from one another. I stressed the need for COMLA to support its members in their national endeavors and also create more opportunities for commonwealth library associations to participate in similar activities.

MaLIA is in fact planning to deliver a course to local public library workers on IL during next winter. I firmly believe that I am duty bound to pass on the knowledge gained for the benefit of the local library and information scene.

IFLA/UNESCO Guidelines on Library Services Select list of print and online publications

Have a look at the guidelines and resource tools IFLA and UNESCO have drawn up for different kinds of libraries and library services. e.g.

The Public Library Service: the IFLA/UNESCO

Guidelines for Development <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s8/proj/publ97.pdf>

Here is a selection of the areas they cover available at: <http://www.ifla.org/act-serv.htm>

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <u>National Libraries</u> | 13. <u>Government Information and Official Publications</u> |
| 2. <u>Academic and Research Libraries</u> | 14. <u>Rare Books and Manuscripts</u> |
| 3. <u>Library and Research Services for Parliaments</u> | 15. <u>Preservation and Conservation</u> |
| 4. <u>Government Libraries</u> | 16. <u>Information Technology</u> |
| 5. <u>Public Libraries</u> | 17. <u>Statistics and Evaluation</u> |
| 6. <u>Libraries Serving Disadvantaged Persons</u> | 18. <u>Reading</u> |
| 7. <u>Libraries for Children and Young Adults</u> | 19. <u>Management and Marketing</u> |
| 8. <u>School Libraries and Resource Centers</u> | 20. <u>Reference and Information Services</u> |
| 9. <u>Bibliography</u> | 21. <u>Newspapers</u> |
| 10. <u>Cataloguing</u> | 22. <u>Information Literacy</u> |
| 11. <u>Acquisition and Collection Development</u> | 23. <u>Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning</u> |
| 12. <u>Document Delivery and Resource Sharing</u> | |

Have you renewed your 2006 membership?



Have you got an email address or a new phone number? Contact us now.

MaLIA would like to thank all those who filled in and sent the feedback form on the report on Maltese libraries.

Mail yours if you haven't yet done so. We appreciate your comments.

School Libraries

Manual for School Librarians

The Schools Library Service within the Education Division has recently published the 5th edition of *A Manual for School Librarians* by Maria Calleja and Joseph M. Boffa. This offers guidelines on building and running a good school library particularly within the context of a state school system. It gives information on the acquisition and processing of library materials, it offers techniques and guidelines for the withdrawal of out of date books, for the repair of damaged ones and it promotes the organisation of library activities.

Pieta' local council donation

The newly elected Pietà council has donated a number of books to Hookham Frere Primary School. Mayor Santo Attard said the donation was the first initiative as part of the council's commitment to encourage more reading.

Gzira Primary School Library

On 24 March a new library was opened at Dun Anton Manche Primary School, Gzira thanks to Mr and Mrs John White who have been benefactors for the past couple of years and who provided funds to purchase reference and reading books as well as new shelving and fittings. Each class gave a presentation to the guests which included playlets, poems, songs and rhymes.



Luqa Primary School Library

On 4 April a newly refurbished Luqa Primary School was inaugurated by Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi. This investment cost more than Lm1 million. The school is now equipped with facilities for art and music lessons, a library, a gymnasium and facilities for teachers and administrative staff.

New resource room at B'Kara Primary School

In April a resource room for teachers and pupils was inaugurated at Anthony Valletta Primary A School in B'kara. The resources include books, teaching aids, science and sensory equipment, maths and language games and big building blocks to be used by children with different abilities. During the ceremony the school received a

donation from the HSBC Cares for Children Fund towards the school library. Well-known authors Charles Casha and Trevor Zahra spoke to the children about writing and illustrating books and discussed the importance of reading. The activity coincided with World Book Day.

Tarxien Primary School launches Multi-Activity Room

In May Education Department officials, the Sta Lucija mayor, parents on the school council, teachers and the pupils themselves welcomed the opening of a multi-activity room at the Tarxien Primary School. The room is fitted with a library, a music section, a kindergarten corner and a time-out area for pupils with special needs.

Story book by school children

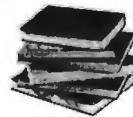
On 30 May Tumas Dingli Primary School in Attard, launched the book *A Magic World* published by Merlin Library. The book is a result of the school's involvement over the past three years with the Socrates-Comenius Project called *Tales For Children - Friend For Life*. Pupils visited Italy and Germany to work with their partner schools. A book of three short stories was written by the pupils as a joint venture with each story being started by a country, continued by another and finished by a third. The project was carried out by e-mail and all stories have been translated into Maltese, English, Italian and German.

Author visits school

In its efforts to make students more interested in the native language, the department of Maltese at San Anton School in Mgarr organised an encounter with author Trevor Zahra. Grade 9 students had the opportunity to quiz Mr Zahra about the reading books they covered this year.

Lm4,000 for Birzebuga schools

At the end of May, Sonke Stein, Director of Oil Tanking Malta Ltd presented more than Lm 4,000 in books to various schools in Birzebuga as well as books for the professional development of teachers of St Benedict's College. Oil Tanking Malta decided to make a contribution to the community's social life by helping the development of children and youths in Birzebuga.



Animated Stories

On 26 May the National Council of Women organized at its centre in Blata l-Bajda a session of animated storytelling by Ms Natalie Portelli for children aged between three and eight. Every child was given a free book.

Book and ICT week at Hamrun Primary School

The Dun Frans Camilleri Primary School in Hamrun recently organised a book and ICT week.

After a School Development Plan session it was agreed that apart from class libraries, reading schemes and other activities which make reading more fun and



attractive, a book and ICT week could further promote reading and integrating books with ICT. The activities included storytelling through the use of powerpoint presentations, research work and learning how to browse the Internet. Other activities included printing where children used software to create their own storybooks. Stories were shown to the whole class then read individually on one of the class computers. Another activity involved children dressing up in costumes and searching information on them using the Internet. The children became more aware of the importance of reading, that this could be fun and interesting as well as learning to integrate ICT in their activities

Cities Entertainment Ltd donation

Cities Entertainment Ltd, operators of *The Great Siege of Malta* and *The Knights of St John*, donated over 600 books to the libraries of 55 state, independent and Church schools all over Malta, during a



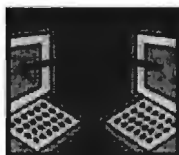
presentation held recently at their premises at Café Premier in Valletta. Ms Mary Rose Mifsud, Director of Student Services and International Relations of the Education Division lauded this initiative targeted to add value towards the cultural and educational development in the school's curriculum. Ms Mifsud said the company's scheme to allocate 10c from each subsidised entrance ticket towards a fund for an annual book donation should be copied by others.

Overseas News and Developments

The Future of Library Catalogues

The Library of Congress

recently issued a report that challenges assumptions about the traditional library catalogue and proposes new directions for the research library catalogue in the digital era. "The Changing Nature of the Catalogue and Its Integration with Other Discovery Tools" is available free of charge at www.loc.gov/catdir/calhoun-report-final.pdf



Campaign to Transform 3 UK Public Libraries in 12 Weeks

A *Love Libraries* campaign was launched in the UK on 22 March that traces the dramatic transformation of three libraries in twelve weeks into models of a future library service with reading at its heart. The public libraries include Richmond Library in London, Coldharbour Library in Kent and Newquay Library in Cornwall. The campaign was created by the UK Future Libraries Partnership, nine British publishers and The Reading Agency. By combining existing best practice in libraries and new ideas for an inspiring new vision of a reading centred library service, *Love Libraries* aims to showcase an exciting, replicable template for other libraries. It also aims to galvanise consumers into demanding a better standard of service from their local library. An online *Love Libraries* toolkit for consumers will be launched in July 2006 which will show what readers can expect of a good library. There will also be a toolkit with practical shared library advice for simple and effective models of change. Info: www.lovelibraries.co.uk



Internet Detective

Internet Detective, an eLearning tutorial that teaches critical evaluation of information found on the Internet, is being rewritten and was relaunched in June. The tutorial is free and is part of the UK Resource Discovery Network's (RDN) Virtual Training Suite. www.vts.intute.ac.uk/detective/

1/3 Million eBooks free from July 4 - August 4

As Project Gutenberg celebrates its 35th anniversary this summer, The World eBook Fair will work to promote eBooks around the globe. 1/3 of a million books, or 10 times the number found in the average US public library, will be available for free downloading via the Internet and World Wide Web beginning July 4, as Project Gutenberg and the World eBook Library act on their dreams of increased world literacy and education. The World eBook Library normally charges \$8.95 per year for their online collection, and allows unlimited permanent downloading. During The World eBook Fair all these books are available free of charge through a gateway at www.gutenberg.org

Web 2.0: The New Library

Paul Miller explores some of the recent buzz around the concept of 'Web 2.0' and asks what it means for libraries and related organisations. Access article in *Ariadne*, Issue 45 October 2005 at www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue45/miller/

Information literacy website

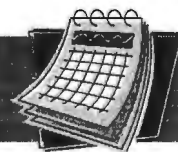
This website has been designed and developed by information professionals from key UK organisations actively involved in the field of information literacy. The site will support practitioners by providing news, case studies, examples of best practice and freely available toolkits. Its aim is to provide a practical resource that information professionals regularly visit to discover the latest developments in information literacy. Access: www.informationliteracy.org.uk/

Ken Harrison

Ken Harrison, Honorary Life Member of MaLIA passed away in February 2006. He was former City Librarian of Westminster and former President of the UK Library Association serving as member of its Council and as chairman of many of its committees between 1953 and 1980 when he officially retired. He was known for his great energy and zeal in the UK and international library world of his time. In 1972 he was elected

Founder President of the Commonwealth Library Association (COMLA) until 1975 during which time he visited 12 Commonwealth countries and their library systems including Malta's. He instituted many training and overseas attachments for Commonwealth librarians, with Westminster acting as host library. In the 1970s he served on the Public Libraries Committees for IFLA, spending much time working to produce public library standards. Ken was the author of 17 books, among the best known are *First steps in librarianship: a students' guide*, 1973, *Public relations for librarians*, 1982 and *International librarianship*, 1989.

OVERSEAS CALENDAR



20-24 August

72nd IFLA Conference
Libraries: Dynamic Engines for the Knowledge and Information Society
Seoul, Republic of Korea.
<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla72/index.htm>

6-8 September

I-KNOW '06 – 6th International Conference on Knowledge Management
Graz, Austria.
<http://i-know.know-center.tugra2.at>

22-24 September

The 21st Century Information Professional Conference organised by The Association of UK Media Librarians
in Edinburgh, Scotland.
<http://www.freepint.com/go/e688>

5-8 October

WWW/Internet 2006, The International Association for Development of the Information Society (IADIS) Conference
Murcia, Spain.
<http://www.iadis.org/icwi2006/>

15 November

RFID Conference organised by CILIP
QEII Conference Centre, London, UK.
Opportunity for library managers to learn about Radio Frequency Identification, claimed to provide cost-effective solutions to key issues facing most libraries.
<http://www.cilip.org.uk/interests/rfid/rfid2006/programme.html>

Archives News

National Archives Council set up

On May 29, the National Archives Council was launched in terms of the Archives Act which came into effect last September. The National Archivist is Charles J. Farrugia and Mgr Joseph Bezzina is Assistant National Archivist for Gozo. The council which has advisory and non-executive powers brings together stakeholders and representatives from the heritage sector and is to convene a national archives forum every two years. Its brief includes the drawing up of guidelines and procedures to be followed when storing and collecting government documents. It was also involved in the drafting of policy to be followed by government departments in the archiving of sensitive material.

The National Archives Council is headed by Joe Izzo as chairperson and includes Nathaniel Cutajar, Dr Mario Tabone, Philip Borg, Anthony J. Vella, Mgr Gwann Azzopardi, Dr Lillian Sciberras, Max Farrugia and John Cremona.

EU archivists meeting

Malta was represented at a meeting of national archivists from the 25 EU countries in Vienna early in April to discuss challenges facing the sector. Candidate countries Bulgaria and Macedonia were also present as was Switzerland. Among the themes discussed were measures to prevent theft from archives, disaster prevention, digitisation and the compilation of a database of legal archival texts. National archivist Charles Farrugia gave an account on how data protection and archive

legislation are being applied in Malta. The Maltese authorities were praised for the achievements in the archives sector during 2005, in particular the new archives legislation and the introduction of archives and records management studies at the University of Malta.



Training on digitisation

A number of employees from the National Archives, members of the Friends of the National Archives and representatives from Linguamine Ltd are to receive training on digitisation for archives under the Leonardo Mobility Measure. This forms part of a project entitled *Preserving Digital Archival Content* submitted by the National Archives last year for EU funding. The project partners are the Open Society Archives in Hungary, the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics in Bulgaria, Global Microfilm Digital SRL and Datadisc Ltd, Italy. At the end of the project, which spans one year, the experiences will be compiled in a manual on digitisation for archives.

Prime Minister's visit

On March 30, the Hon. Prime Minister Dr Lawrence Gonzi paid a courtesy visit to the National Archives. Mr Max Farrugia, President of the Friends of the National Archives of Malta presented a donation of Lm 5,500 to the National Archivist. The funds came from the Vodafone donation and other fundraising activities. The aim is to purchase four showcases, a counter and all the exhibition boards currently assembled at the Banca Giuratale. Part of the donation will partially fund the purchase of a scanner.

Archives Newsletter

The National Archives is revamping its quarterly newsletter thanks to a sponsorship of the HSBC Cares For Malta's Heritage Fund.

Logo Competition

In June a competition was organised to create a logo which reflects the identity of the National Archives of Malta as a newly established agency, under Act V 2005 Chapter 477 of the laws of Malta. The successful logo will be a main feature in the current re-branding exercise of the organisation.

Local Councils as life members

The Friends of the National Archives of Malta has contacted all local councils to encourage them to become life members against a Lm 25 fee. Life members include the local councils of Mtarfa, Pembroke, Qormi, Sta. Lucija, Sta. Venera, St. Julians, Victoria and Zebbug, Gozo.

Local scientist's bequest

The papers of scientist Anthony Valletta were presented to the National Archives by family members. Mr Steve Borg selected the material and is cataloguing it. Mr Valletta was an all-round naturalist who travelled and collected widely. He wrote two short books *The butterflies* (1972) and *The moths of the Maltese islands* (1973).

Pictorial collection donation

Anti-aircraft gunner Stanley Fraser has donated his photo and film collection of wartime Malta to mark the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II. Mr Fraser documented the everyday life of a soldier in the early 1940s from the heavy night-time raids to Christmas plays, making the collection a priceless piece of Maltese heritage.

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The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views expressed by the Editorial Board and/or MaLIA's Council but only represent the author's views as forwarded to us.

The Malta Library and Information Association (MaLIA), formerly known as the *Ghaqda Biblijotekarij*, is the association that gathers within its ranks all information workers such as librarians and includes archivists. MaLIA is the oldest established association (1969) on the local information scene enjoying wide experience in this sector. Individuals interested in joining as members should write to the Secretary at the above address.

MaLIA is a full member of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), the Commonwealth Library Association (COMLA) and the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA).

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