



MALTA LIBRARIES ANNUAL REPORT 2017



MALTA
LIBRARIES



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FOREWORD



During 2017, the mission and objectives of Malta Libraries have undergone an organised process of re-evaluation in an effort to bring the entity in line with society's most pressing needs. Times have changed and, inevitably, so have libraries, their scope and purpose. Malta Libraries has widened its remit and is now the main entity responsible for the National Library, the public libraries of Malta and Gozo and the newly established National Bibliographic Office.

The National Library has seen an increase in virtual requests for information, and conversely, experienced a reduction in the actual researchers who physically visit the library. Nevertheless, there was a good number of planned visits as well as ad hoc visits, especially by foreigners who are understandably drawn to the building's history and prestige. Additionally, the National Library hosted a number of cultural events such as exhibitions, public talks, and educational workshops and opened its doors to the public in several ways making the place more accessible than ever before.

The year 2017 also brought about expansion in the National Bibliographic Office's (NBO) role. The Office took over the Legal Deposit function and adopted the role of Europeana Aggregator. The NBO also continued in its efforts to catalogue retrospectively and throughout the year it managed to finalise and publish the National Bibliography for 2011 whilst also initiated works on the National Bibliography for 2012.

2017 was another exceptionally positive year for the public libraries. The circulation statistics increased by 7.9 per cent when compared to the previous year. The public libraries also experienced an increase in outreach activities through regular cooperation with other organisations. Moreover, during the period under review, the Central Public Library's Junior Section was fully refurbished and this contributed to the increase in its usage especially by young readers who greatly appreciated the new educational play area and accompanying themed murals. This year has also seen the public library service open up its Talking Books service (launched in April 2017 by H. E. The President of Malta) to the general public in a bid to strengthen Malta Libraries' 2017 mission for more inclusivity across the board.

Cheryl Falzon
National Librarian & CEO, Malta Libraries

FUNCTIONS

As established by the Malta Libraries Act, the functions and responsibilities of Malta Libraries are:

- to continue to acquire, assemble, conserve for posterity, and make accessible to the public, the collection of the nation's documentary heritage and published current output, regardless of form or medium, to be found in the libraries;
- to manage, administer, and develop the libraries under its control, and to provide leadership to other libraries in Malta in such areas as management and conservation of library materials, and to promote national cooperation schemes and the professional training of librarians and information professionals;
- to assist Local Councils which run a public library to ensure that the library maintains high standards;
- to enhance the quality of life of the public by providing library reference and lending services and library material, in whatever form or medium, for education, self-development, lifelong learning and recreation purposes;
- to foster and strengthen reading habits and support literacy and other cultural activities and programmes for all age groups;
- to accept and acquire private records of significance by gift, purchase, bequest or deposit;
- explore innovative services, including information, communication and technology services, that can benefit patrons in accessing and using information;
- serve as the role model library system for other libraries in Malta;
- to perform such other functions as may from time to time be assigned to it by the Minister.

Malta Libraries Act 2011

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MALTA

The Reading Room

The National Library of Malta, in its role as solely a reference and research library, is the centre for historical learning and academia, boasting among its holdings the prestigious library and archives of the Order of the Knights of Malta from their inception in the early 12th century until their expulsion from Malta by Napoleon in 1798. However, the National Library is much more than that. Together with the National Library (Gozo), it collects the national imprint as well as other material relating to the Maltese Islands or written by Maltese authors and published overseas. Its primary dual mission is to manage and conserve its collections for present and future generations while ensuring their accessibility to researchers. To this effect, every effort is made to encourage and support research.

The Reading Room welcomes researchers who opt to visit the library personally to conduct their research. The staff, consisting of two Assistant Librarians, a Library Officer and a Library Assistant, is always on hand to assist users and to guide them to the appropriate sources of information depending on the query received. However, the number of persons who frequent the Reading Room decreases every year due to the fact that information and digital texts are nowadays readily available online and also because the younger generation is generally less interested in historical research and no longer possesses some of the necessary tools for retrieving such information, such as knowledge of the Latin language. In fact during 2017, the library received a total of 4,660 researchers, an average of 16 per day and a 14% drop from last year's 5,445. Consequently, there was a marked decline in the number of items requested in the Reading Room, namely 6,694 items, a 13% decrease from last year's total of 7,544. This figure translates into an average of 22 per day and one item per user. Requests reached their peak in March with a total of 749 items, an average of 29 per day of opening during that month. As always, the majority of users consulted newspaper material with a total of 3,928 requests. Consultation by scholars of the Archives of the Order of Malta remained significant with 1,093 requests, followed closely by 1,076 Melitensia items. The Library Manuscript collection drew a total of 279 requests while the Treasury record group this year received unusually marked attention with a record number of 138 requests. This was mainly due to an unprecedented surge in the studies of the cabrei of Malta, especially of Valletta, in the context of the run-up to Valletta 2018. The Adami collection registered a total of 134 requests while the Univ. documents occupy the usual last position with scholars making only 46 requests for consultation.

	AOM	TREAS.	UNIV.	AD	LIBR. MSS	MELIT	NEWS	TOTAL
Jan.	90	2	12	17	2	96	295	514
Feb.	95	23	5	14	11	72	271	491
Mar.	139	10	4	20	29	98	449	749
April	76	14	4	17	21	119	385	636
May	103	3	2	10	25	113	347	603
June	71	5	3	17	28	39	350	513
July	50	12	2	15	14	82	260	435
Aug.	101	42	2	10	19	85	323	582
Sept.	70	19	2	2	23	71	303	490
Oct.	121	2	6	2	39	74	315	559
Nov.	105	2	2	7	44	152	334	628
Dec.	104	4	2	3	24	75	296	494
TOTAL	1093	138	46	134	279	1076	3928	6694

During the year 2017, the library received 17 new scholars and students – three Maltese and 14 foreigners - who asked to consult mainly the archives of the Order of Malta or rare items, such as illuminated manuscripts. The Maltese newcomers were all BA or MA students conducting research for their theses. All presented letters of recommendation from their universities or from other academic institutions that they represented, or else they presented publications of their own in cases where they themselves were heads of institutions or historians with publications to their credit.

Requests for information reached the library not only through personal contact but also via telephone, e-mail and social media, mainly Facebook. The year 2017 witnessed the arrival of a record 472 requests, just over half of which (239) came from Malta. Others were submitted mainly by French (88), Italian (64) and British (21) scholars, students or the general public. E-mails reached the library from distant countries such as Mexico and Japan. The majority requested digital copies from the library collections, with French and Italians focusing on the Archives of the Order and the rest seeking information from newspapers and books and frequently ordering digital copies. The images were sent via e-mail or by post by means of CDs or DVDs. Other requests simply asked for information related or non-related to the library. Sometimes extensive research was required in order to deal with a request, especially when details, such as dates in the case of newspaper issues, were not provided by the client.

QUERIES 2017	
Argentina	1
Australia	2
Belgium	2
Bulgaria	1
Canada	4
Cyprus	4
France	88
Georgia	1
Germany	8
Greece	4
Hungary	2
Israel	1
Italy	64
Japan	2
Luxembourg	3
Malta	239
Mexico	3
Netherlands	3
Romania	2
Russia	1
Serbia	1
Spain	6
Sweden	2
Switzerland	1
United Kingdom	21
United States of America	6
TOTAL	472

As regards the National Library (Gozo), 2,062 researchers availed themselves of the services provided in the Reading Room and 2,385 items were requested for consultation. The majority viewed newspapers (816), but a good number of Melitensia books (785) and periodicals (377) were requested too. Nineteen manuscripts were viewed as well as 485 sundry items, including government publications, past examination papers and school project material. During the year under review, a total of 2,987 pages of photocopies were made for the general public and all this netted the sum of €879.76. A total of 230 persons made use of internet services at the National Library (Gozo).

Legal Deposits

One of the most important tasks of the National Library is to conserve the national written memory. This is achieved by means of the Legal Deposit Act which stipulates that authors or publishers are bound by law to deliver to the National Library two copies free of charge, of any work printed and published in the Maltese Islands. With the setting up of the National Bibliographic Office, some of the functions of this important section were transferred to this office, mainly the collection of Legal Deposits. During the past year, the office was consolidated by a call for applications and eventually the appointment of a Senior Manager and a Manager. A total of 456 books accrued to the library collection as legal deposits at the National Library of Malta during 2017 while 526 titles were deposited at the National Library (Gozo).

As a supplement to the works received by legal deposit, the section usually purchases an extra copy of each title. With regard to books published abroad, the usual emphasis was made on acquiring works published overseas by Maltese nationals as well as those with a tangible Maltese connection. The total amount spent on purchases of books both from Malta and abroad rose to €5,400.

During the year under review, the collection of journals increased by 863 new issues and the physical relocation of this ever growing collection is being considered in the context of a more extensive holistic plan for the relocation of other material, especially in view of the installation of the users' lift which will introduce a new itinerary to be undertaken by readers in order to reach the Reading Room. The new itinerary will necessarily affect the areas where newspapers, journals and reference books are preserved, and therefore these collections are currently being relocated to other areas of the library.

Periodicals 2017	No. Issues
Ahbarijiet mill-YTC	5
Ahna Lilkom	11
Alive and Healthy	4
Altior ab Imo	3
Amigos hbieb	3
Arkivju	1
B.R.A. Baywatch	11
B.R.A. Gozo Oracle	9
B.R.A. Mellieha Messenger	10
B.R.A. Sliema / St Julian's	9
B.R.A. Southern Group Newsletter	10
Bird's Eye View	3
Bliss	3
BOV Shareholders Ltd.	2
Bullettin tal-Hadd	3
CCC in Malta	7
Chamberlink	2
Child	4
Cibus	10
Click	3
Cockereel	4
Commercial Courier	7
Customs	3
Dawl Frangiskan	10
Dawl il-Punent	9
Day by Day	12
Delicious	3
Dental Probe	4
DILOS	7
Echoes	4
Economic Vison	1
Emmus	1
Encore	5
Ene Info	1
Engineering Today	2
First Magazine	12

Periodicals 2017	No. Issues
Filmkien	12
Flyaway Magazine	2
Fondazzjoni Kulturali	12
Forced Migration	1
Friends of the Malta Museum	4
Ghalik H'Attard	11
Gourmet Magazine	1
Gozo Philatelic Society	2
Gozo SPCA Newsletter	1
Gwida	52
Gwida ghal min jghallem	3
GWL Newsletter	2
Habbara tal-Bxara	1
Hajja f'Ghawdex	10
Hajja Salesjana	5
Hal-Balzan	11
Hbieb il-Presepu	1
Hbiebna	4
Holqa Bejnietna	3
Homeworks	5
I Do	5
Id-Dawl	1
Il-Bastun	10
Il-Belt Victoria	2
Il-Furjana	3
Il-Habbar ta' Sant Antnin	6
Il-Hbieb Isejhu	12
Il-Huttafa	5
Il-Karmelu	4
Il-Kelma ta' kuljum	12
Il-Knisja Tieghi	7
Il-Lehen	3
Il-Mara	3
Il-Musbieh	4
Il-Muzajk	10
Il-Paci Maghkom	4

Periodicals 2017	No. Issues
Il-Pensjonant	4
Il-Pulizija	4
Il-Vexillina	6
In-Nazzjon	2
Inrewhu l-Fjamma	4
Island Sanctuary	4
Is-Saltna	11
Is-Santwarju	6
Is-Seher tal-Bizzilla	2
Is-Sejha	5
Is-Siggiewi	1
It-Triq	12
Ix-Xaghra	2
Ix-Xerrej	2
Jesus Caritas	4
Kalendarju Musewmin	5
Kelma ta' kuraġġ	12
Kliem il-hajja	3
L-Accent	2
L-Anzjan Illum	4
L-Anzjani	3
Lehen il-Girgenti	4
Lehen il-Parroċċa	9
Lehen il-Parroċċa: Il-Karmnu tal-Balluta	12
Lehen il-Parroċċa: Marian Culture Group	3
Lehen ix-Xirka	4
Lehen mill-Arka	2
L-Iskout Xaghri	1
Luminarju	1
Madonna ta' Pinu	4
Malta Map Society Journal	1
Malta Missjunarju	12
Malta Philatelic Society Journal	3
Malta Philatelic Society Newsletter	12
Malta Postage Stamp Issue	10
Maltese Diabetics	4

Periodicals 2017	No. Issues
Melita Theologica	1
Meusac News	2
Mill-Bajja	3
Mill-Parlament	2
Mission Fund: Missjunarju	4
Mission Seminarju	1
Moviment Missjunarju	4
Moya Malta	5
National Archives Newsletter	1
News and Views	1
Nimxu Id f'Id	12
Nisġet Artna	4
Old Motors Club	12
On Parade	1
Parish of the Immaculate Conception	6
Perry	1
Pink	11
Places	6
Planning MT	4
QLZH Group	1
R + M 2000	9
Roti	6
Royal British Region	6
S.O.S.J. Observer	4
Senior Times	9
Shareholder's News	8
Sportiv	12
Style	4
Sunday Circle	13
Symposia Melitensia	1
Taste & Flair	9
Tfal Missjunarji	7
The Accountant	4
The Architect	1
The Friends of Malta GC	2
The Malta Anglican	11

Periodicals 2017	No. Issues
The Maltese Herald	8
The Maltese Jesuit	6
The Synapse	3
Think Magazine	3
Treasures of Malta	3
Unity	1
Victoria Scout Group	5
Villa Lija	4
Voucher	8
Ward u Żgħar	5
Wedding Day	3
Wheelspin	3
Windsock	3
Xandar il-Kelma	4
Xehda Ghasel	3
Zminijiet	1
TOTAL	198

During 2017, the National Library (Gozo) subscribed to four foreign journals, namely, The Economist, Time Magazine, National Geographic and Which.

Donations and Acquisitions

The National Library pursues a policy of acquiring rare Melitensia items, e.g. manuscripts, printed pamphlets and ephemera, from private sources or via auction or the internet. In April, the National Library welcomed the deposit of a significant collection from a private source – the Micallef Trigona collection – consisting of books, letters, account books, photographs and ephemera going back to the early 20th century. The papers were sorted and listed by two University students during their Practicum phase in June-July. Besides this collection, the library received a number of small donations in Melitensia books, and purchased some items from private sources as well.

In May, the National Library contacted Mr Fabio Lobianco, a dealer of old books and manuscripts in Milan, with a view to acquiring four letters pertaining to Malta, having been sent from the chancery of the Order of St John in Malta and signed by Grand Master Ramon Perellos y Roccaful. The letters, which were dated 1701, 1702, 1705 and 1707, were addressed to the Count of Gallarate and were signed in Perellos's hand. The letters were purchased by the National Library for the total price of € 2,000.

Conservation and Restoration

The restoration and conservation of library material is of primary importance in an old building which lacks the amenities and ideal conservation conditions of a state-of-the-art modern building. Nevertheless, the National Library is doing its utmost to keep itself updated on the latest techniques in this respect. During the past year, the services of SalvArti, a professional conservation company, were once more engaged to implement a disinfestation project in the Melitensia rooms by using anoxia treatment which is the most effective method of pest control without causing any harm to the books. By means of anoxia treatment, books are wrapped in a special airtight plastic film bubble and kept enclosed under computerised monitoring for 21 days. During this period, oxygen is gradually replaced with nitrogen gas resulting in effective disinfestation. In April, 50 boxes of books were sent from the National Library to SalvArti for fumigation and 125 boxes were dispatched in June.

In addition, the Restoration Unit continued to implement, also through the advice of extraneous professional restorers, the latest methods of restoring and bringing back to life the library's priceless material. Thus, 89 manuscripts were restored while 180 Melitensia works were repaired and rebound. The staff bound 102 daily newspapers and restored 31 older volumes of newspapers. They also constructed 38 preservation boxes in which to conserve artefacts. A total of 211 periodicals were bound in hardback volumes. As regards flat works, 202 prints and nine maps were cleaned, restored and mounted.

The Restoration staff actively participated in 13 exhibitions and events by mounting the former and coordinating the logistics of the latter. Eleven students were hosted by the Restoration Unit during the year and were taught basic bookbinding and restoration skills. The staff cleaned and fumigated 475 metres of books while the same length of wooden shelving, furniture and wooden showcases were also fumigated.

The work carried out by Restoration Unit staff was not limited to conservation and restoration but comprised sundry other tasks, such as the delivery of surplus materials from the National Library to Wasteserv, the installation of better lighting in the Boardroom, the plastering and installation of lighting in the new Administration Archive Room, the making of eight wooden platforms on which to mount as many large metal cabinet where flat works are stored, and the construction of iron works for the balcony of the Restoration Unit.

Fig. 4

WORK PERFORMED BY RESTORATION UNIT IN 2017
Restoration of 89 manuscripts
Repairs and rebinding of 180 Melitensia books
Binding of 102 daily newspapers
Restoration of 31 newspapers
Hard binding of 211 periodicals
Making of 38 preservation boxes for artefacts
Cleaning of 202 prints
Cleaning/restoration/mounting of 9 maps
Mounting of 13 exhibitions and logistical coordination of events
Placement of 11 students
Cleaning and fumigation of 475 mtr of books
Fumigation of 475 mtr of wooden shelving, furniture and wooden showcases
OTHERS
Delivery of surplus materials from the National Library to Wasteserve for shredding
Installation of lighting in Board room
Plastering and installation of lighting in new Administration Archive Room
Carpentry of 8 wooden platforms for large metal flat works cabinets
Iron works of balcony in Restoration Unit

Digitisation

By embarking on an intense digitisation programme by means of a project for which the National Library of Malta had succeeded in procuring European Regional Development Funds (ERDF) in 2008, a framework was established in order to digitise the library collections, thus ensuring preservation of the original material and providing digital access to them. Since the initiation of the project in 2009, a large number of items, including newspapers, books and manuscripts, have been scanned, enriched with metadata and uploaded on the portal DigiVault for consultation by the public.

Over the past year, the Digitisation Studio continued to scan a number of newspapers and books from the National Library collection not only with a view to making them accessible via the portal DigiVault but also to satisfy users' demands. This year a total of 262,000 new images were captured and the library's digital collection uploaded on its portal DigiVault increased by a total of 210,000 assets available for consultation. A significant development during the past year was the transfer to the Digitisation Studio of the job of scanning the images requested by the public. This new service significantly increased the workload of the studio but was also instrumental in bringing about a larger variety of items to be digitised, as per the readers' demands.

DIGITIZATION STUDIO WORK IN 2017

Malta Government Gazette 1881-1966

Il-Helsien 1959-1966

Lloyd Maltese 1847-1851

Maltese Herald 1961-1970

L'Ordine 1879-1900

AOM 339-344

Libr. MS 53, 6 vols

Libr. MS 57

Libr. MS 144

Libr. MS 145

Libr. MS 1165

Libr. MS 1238

Manners and Customs of Malta

Defoe, Robinson Crusoe in Arabic

Census of Malta and Gozo 1861

Paoli, Codice Diplomatico , 2 vols

Cumbo, Genoveffa

Cumbo, Mata Hari

Cumbo, Il Haadied tal Cunvent

Debono, Annotazioni Leggi Criminali

Tapisseries du Roi

Plans des villes

Les plaisirs du l'isle enchantee

Plan de la ville des roses

Portraits de Louis le Grand

Plan de la ville

La bataille de Rethel

Students and Volunteers

Throughout the year, the library continued to provide training for both Maltese and foreign students. Six Maltese Sixth Form and University students conducted their Systems of Knowledge placements and practicum respectively at the library while 18 Erasmus students from Italy, France, Spain, Germany, Austria, Czech Republic and Lithuania also lent a helping hand to staff. All the students were assigned tasks in the Digitisation Studio and in the Book Restoration Laboratory as well as in the Acquisitions section and the Reading Room. They scanned books and newspapers thus speeding up the capturing phase of the digitisation process. As regards restoration, they learned the basic techniques in both bookbinding and restoration and were given specific books to restore themselves. Eighteen books were restored by the students and this was a source of pride and satisfaction for them. They also assisted the Acquisitions section by stamping and registering the new books and lent a hand in the Reading Room by fetching books and newspaper volumes from the depositories.

Students placements during 2017		
Systems of Knowledge:	Amber Mifsud	4 Feb 2017
	Sarah Pisani	4 Feb 2017
	Matthew Galea	10 July 2017
	Rachel Bezzina	24 July 2017
Practicum:	Norella Darmanin	19 June 2017
	Jessica Farrugia	19 June 2017
Restoration only:	Jelle van den Berg	17 April 2017
	Zakaria Slimani	17 April 2017
	Gabriella Ponzi	8 May 2017
	Ana Garmilla González	3 July 2017
Digitization and Restoration:	Corentin Paczkowski	3 Jan 2017
	Kerstin Merz	1 March 2017
	Andrea Torri	14 March
	Monia Mazzanti	14 March
	Eileen Cociu	24 April 2017
	Anna Ziegenrucker	24 April 2017
	Sophia Biewig	27 June 2017
Digitization only	Gabrielė Marcinkevičiūtė	11 April 2017
	Ričardas Mackevičius	11 April 2017
	Gorgino Alexander	22 May 2017
	Luis Vega	22 May 2017
	Aurora Paracchini	3 July 2017
	Emily Arena	3 July 2017
	Miriana Indelicato	21 August 2017

Two volunteers, Mr Felix Rizzo and Ms Barbara Woodward, provided valuable assistance by performing important tasks that the staff could not undertake due to other work priorities. Mr Rizzo singlehandedly relocated the reference collection which was moved to another room in view of the installation of the new client lift in the area it previously occupied. He also reorganised the annual festa publications according to parish and listed the books in the Parnis collection in view of fumigation. Ms Woodward performed mostly book-cleaning duties and minor restoration tasks. Mr Joseph Schirò, book restorer and former Director of the Restoration Division within Heritage Malta, Bighi, continued to work on the Lafreri maps in the library collection by populating the database with the relative curatorial data.

Visitors

During 2017, the National Library received a good number of high-profile visits especially during the first six months when Malta carried the responsibility of the EU Presidency. Apart from these visits, groups of university students came over with their respective tutors to learn about the library collections, the research tools and finding aids available at the library in view of researching their theses. The visits were conducted by the Deputy Librarian or by the tutors themselves.

The visits occurred as follows:

9th January – 15 History students with Dr Emmanuel Buttigieg
10th January – 7 History of Art students with Dr Martina Caruana
2nd February – Prof. Suzanne Barbelet from Essex University, Dr Aida Slavic from Zagreb University and Prof. Birte Christensen Dalsgaard from the Royal Library of Denmark

8th February - Mr Mario Cutajar, Principal Permanent Secretary
 14th February – H.E. Ms Julienne Hince, Australian High Commissioner Designate
 21st February – 12 Osnabrueck Ph.D. students of Medieval History with Dr Thomas Vogtherr; Italian MEP Dott. Mario Borghezio

22nd February – 25 members of EBLIDA (European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations) and MaLIA (Malta Library and Information Association)
 1st March – 10 Law students with Dr Joan Abela
 15th March – 10 Melitensia students with Dr William Zammit
 24th April – 6 students of the MCAST Cultural Heritage course with Ms Lindsey Galea
 28th April – 30 members from the EAG (European Archives Experts Group) and EBNA (European Board of National Archivists)
 30th April - Mr Richard Linenthal with Dr Timothy Gambin
 19th May - Tom Foakes, Director, Museum of the Order of St John, London
 30th May - National Book Council; Ms Antonella Berry-Brincat
 8th June - Dr Ivana Rihova and Dr Michaela Mikesova from the Muzeum Středního Pootaví in Strakonice, Czech Republic
 15th June - 35 delegates of EUDiA (European Union Diplomatic Archives) from EU member states participating in the general meeting held in Malta
 5th September – 20 members of the US SMOM Federal Association with Mr and Mrs Bill Williams
 25th September – 12 members from the Catholic Archives Society
 19th October – Professors Artsiom Nazaranka, Andrei Prokhorov, Katsiaryna Smaliakova and Stsiapan Zakharkovich from Belarus University
 13th November – 15 History students with Dr Simon Mercieca
 14th November – 5 Russian VIPs with Dame Irina Malikova

The library is also open to the general public. Access is granted against the presentation of an ID card or other document of identification. Visitors may view the display of library material in the exhibition areas but are not allowed to roam in the research area in order not to disturb researchers. During 2017, the library received 15,129 visitors, which meant an average of 50 per day and a 7% increase over last year. This may have been due to greater visibility on TV as well as more effective publicity via social media.

Exhibitions

A major exhibition was mounted in the National Library's Reading Room in November 2017 to commemorate the first centenary of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia. The exhibition, entitled *From Absolutism to Glasnost: a journey into Russian history through the National Library collections*, consisted of a display of documents and books relating to Russia. The exhibition did not focus on the 1917 revolution but spanned over 300 years of events, beginning with the mission of the first Russian envoy to Malta, Boris Scheremetev, on behalf of his sovereign Tsar Peter I in 1698 and ending with the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the creation of the new republics in the early 1990s. A 40-page catalogue was written and produced for the occasion. The exhibition drew a large number of visitors throughout its one-month duration.

During the year under review, the National Library was also invited to collaborate in the organisation of exhibitions set up elsewhere. Between 16th February and 28th May, two works from the National Library's Fine Bookbindings collection were on display in the BOZAR (Centre for Fine Arts) in Brussels as part of an exhibition entitled *Malta, Land of Sea*. The exhibition was organised by BOZAR, Heritage

Malta and the Malta Arts Council and featured mainly artefacts from Maltese state museums. The National Library participated with two important works - *Analyse de la carte Générale de L'Océan Atlantique ou Occidental, dressée au Dépôt des Cartes, Plans & Journaux de la Marine* (Paris, Imprimerie Royale, 1786) and Ottavio Antonio Bayardi's *Prodromo delle antichità d'Ercolano alla Maestà delle Due Sicilie Carlo Infante di Spagna* (Naples, Regale Stamperia Palatina, 1752).

Between 17th March and 9th July 2017, the National Museum of Archaeology in Valletta was proud to host the dagger of Grand Master de Valette which was brought over from the Louvre Museum in Paris. The dagger was prominently placed on display in an exhibition organised for the occasion. The National Library of Malta participated with two items: one volume from the Archives of the Order of Malta (AOM 299) which contained the proceedings of the Chapter General of 1566, during which the annual commemoration of the 8th September victory of 1565 was instituted, as well as a volume from the Library Manuscript collection (Libr. MS 17) which contained information about the sword and dagger presented to Grand Master de Valette on 5th June 1566.

On two occasions the National Library collaborated with the Office of the Prime Minister when the latter requested items to be displayed for particular one-day events. The first occurred on 21st April when the National Library loaned out the original George Cross citation to be displayed on the 75th anniversary of the award of the George Cross to Malta by King George VI in 1942. The second event was the visit of the Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to Malta on 27th May. For this occasion, five issues of the Times of Malta and Daily Malta Chronicle from the early 20th century and the 1970s which included news related to Japan were displayed at the Auberge de Castile for viewing by the Japanese delegation.

Between 14th and 16th June, Her Imperial Highness Grand Duchess Maria Vladimirovna, Head of the Russian Imperial House, was in Malta on a private visit. On the occasion of her visit to the Russian Centre for Science and Culture on 15th June, the National Library, together with the Director of the Russian Centre, organised a small exhibition showcasing a number of documents and books related to Russia from among the National Library holdings. The exhibition was open for public viewing on the afternoon of the same day. Among the exhibits were copies of letters from Tsars Peter the Great, Peter III and Paul I, as well as a portrait of Paul I which had been presented to the then Royal Malta Library in 1937. On display were also newspaper reports and diaries of Russian refugees who sought asylum in Malta in 1919 in the aftermath of the Bolshevik Revolution.

With regard to the National Library (Gozo), the original issue of The Bulletin dated 5 May 1954 was loaned for the exhibition entitled Carlo Pisi (1897-1979) which was hosted at the Banca Giuratale, Victoria, between 28th April and 28th May 2017.

THE NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC OFFICE

2017 was a year of expansion for the National Bibliographic Office (NBO). A year characterised by the absorption of the Legal Deposit Function and the adoption of the role of Europeana Aggregator. The work carried out may be divided into four broad categories namely, Bibliographic Work, Online Repository, Off-site Storage Facilities and Legal Deposit.

Bibliographic Work

The NBO catalogued all the bibliographic records of the material published during year 2011, that fall within the capture criteria of the National Bibliography. By the end of the year the National Bibliography for 2011 was published. This is an important date for the NBO, since it constituted the work plan for the first years of the directorate, namely that of closing off the Department of Libraries period. Additionally, cataloguing work for the year 2012 has already commenced and it is expected that the first National Bibliography pertaining to the Malta Libraries period will be published within the coming months.

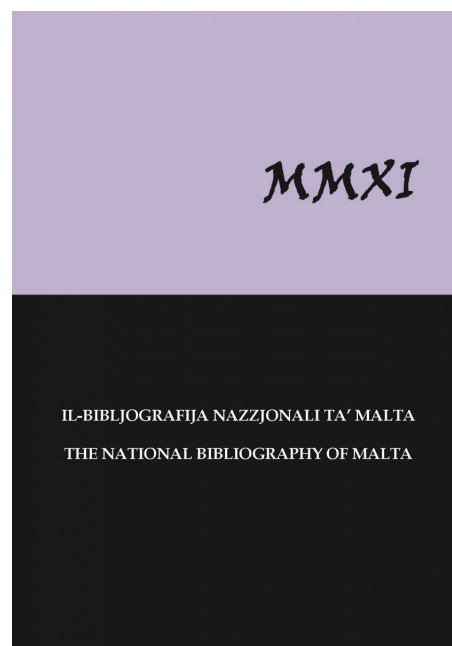
Online Repository

The NBO worked closely with the Reader Services Department of the National Library to assist in the strengthening of workflows and the management of the various work threads, that such a project entails. The transfer of data between the said department and the NBO is working smoothly. Every 'project' is documented with feedback so that completion of any pending work pertaining to each data set can be monitored by the said department. By the end of the year, the NBO published metadata pertaining to 210,000 digital assets.

DigiVault Usage

It was planned that DigiVault would double researchers' usage of the National Library's holdings, in terms of the amount of material requested per annum. For this double usage to occur, the NBO estimated that DigiVault would require approximately 3,000 research visits per annum. During 2017 there was a decline in the number of research visits which in turn created a decline in the number of materials consulted. A denominator which affects any new service is the initial bubble of request for the service. While this factor would have left its mark, one can think of other factors which directly resulted in the decline in usage during 2017.

The first factor may be the growth rate of DigiVault content as opposed to the expectation of its users. The demand represents user expectation following an initial supply of 150,000 items as opposed to the 60,000 additional supply during the following year. The limitation imposed by the resources available for this task makes it difficult to increase the supply. Supply can only be increased by absorbing third-party material which requires a digital platform for access, an aspect in which the NBO is actively seeking partners. However, by ensuring that the digital assets captured are those that are mostly numerically required, the NBO would increase the efficiency of supply usage. This aspect was discussed with the Reader Services Department of the National Library, since the latter interacts with the traditional (physical on-site) users of the National Library. A workflow hinged on user requests has been established through which it is hoped that order of priority for digitisation is based on a request criterion and will eventually increase the total number of consultations. The



second factor which reflected the decline is that related to creation of demand. The trend which was available for 2016 indicated that the use of social media increased the consultation of those items that were showcased in the social media. Following a change in Corporate Profile policy, the NBO passed on its communication function to the Marketing Department. The latter however was going through a period of staff return which resulted in absence from social media channels. Upon noticing the decline, the NBO alerted the Marketing Department and together a plan was devised whereby a schedule of social media posts was created through which demand will hopefully be created.

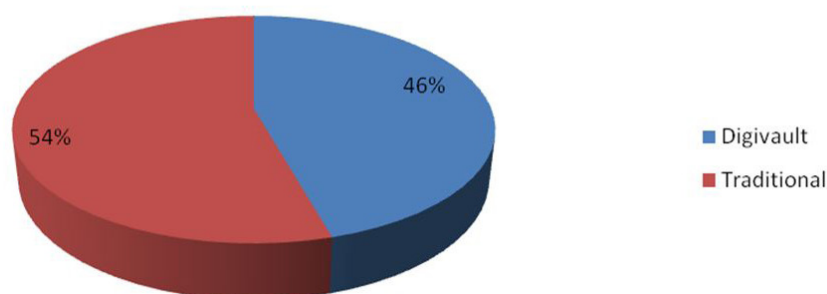
The National Library has experienced a similar decline though in smaller percentages due to a constant albeit small loyal customer base. Consequently, for DigiVault to succeed and limit its dependency on the National Library, the NBO is thinking out of the box to identify channels which would lead new users to DigiVault. So far, a project has been identified but is awaiting third-party approval for its implementation.

The targets that were achieved were as follows:

	Research Visits	Items Requested
January	289	375
February	357	2843
March	393	1365
April	429	597
May	349	1035
June	271	732
July	262	679
August	272	1347
September	239	309
October	443	2408
November	353	603
December	254	587
Total	3911	12880

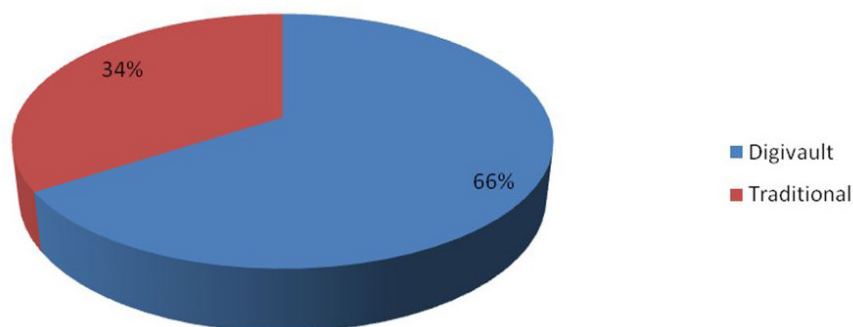
As described above there was a drop in the number of researchers visiting DigiVault. In fact, one can argue that the drop resulted in an exchange of percentages between the traditional vs the digital access to the National Library’s holdings as opposed to last year.

Researchers consulting items from the National Library during 2017



On the other hand, DigiVault retained its percentage share of the number of items consulted from the National Library's holdings. This clearly indicates that the flexibility of material available for researchers using DigiVault, without the imposition of a maximum limit as in the Reading Room, plays a vital role in such figures.

Items from the National Library consulted during 2017



Metadata Reuse

Following the dissolution of The European Library (TEL), the NBO discussed and negotiated Malta Libraries' situation with TEL and Europeana, so that the NBO will take over the role of the local Europeana aggregator. These efforts proved successful and the Director of the NBO signed the Data Exchange Agreement with Europeana. This contract ensured that the National Library will retain its presence on Europeana, while the NBO takes a leading technical role in this area of work as stipulated in the Malta Libraries Act.

The next step was to simplify the procedure through which metadata can be ingested in Europeana. During the year under review, a project plan was discussed through which metadata migration will not be carried out in a manual two-phased approach but streamlined automatically between the resident metadata structure and the Europeana Data Model (EDM). This project is awaiting financial approval for implementation.

Off-site Storage

Work has continued in the Hal Far repository in terms of relocating and disposing of material which is not required to be on site. This process is now complete. The space that became available was required to house temporarily the cataloguing process of current materials until its eventual relocation to the new repository in Floriana. Housekeeping duties on this site are ongoing and with the additional presence of the cataloguing section, the repository's environmental conditions were optimised.

Work has commenced on the Floriana repository to accommodate the NBO offices and the additional repository. By the time of writing the premises are ready to accommodate the NBO staff and material requiring off-site storage. Additional shelving to maximise the use of space, the erection of an internal gypsum wall and the rehabilitation of an existing office, will see this project to completion.

Legal Deposit

The legal deposit function previously held within the National Library has been absorbed by the NBO. The concept behind this move is for the NBO to be in a better position to control its work processes since legal deposit constitutes its supply and hence the initial step required through which the National Bibliography is created. Additionally, with such a move the National Library will be better focused on the functions related to user access, material conservation and content interpretation.

Deposits

During 2017, a total of 456 books and 863 serial issues, the latter including periodicals and journals, were deposited at the National Bibliographic Office under legal deposit.

Recovery of retrospective material

Primary recovery exercise

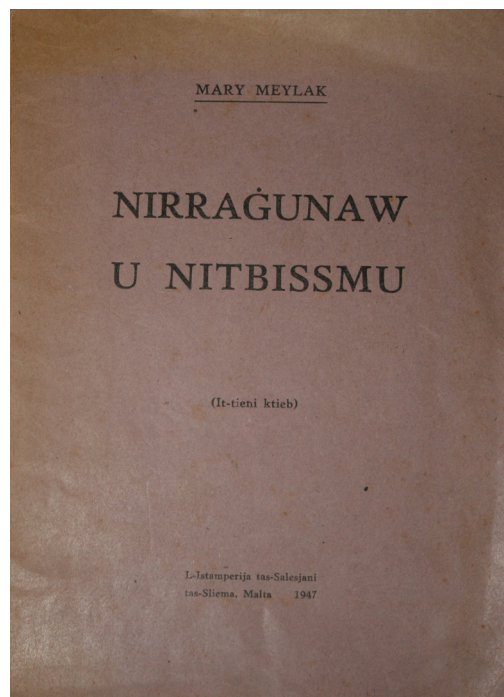
This involves the daily scrutiny of material that is donated to charity outlets. On retrieving Melitensia publications, in all their various formats, these are placed on a temporary basis in carton boxes, awaiting evaluation in order to stabilise their microclimate. Strong carton storage boxes are obtained as the evaluation process commences. Verification is made through the online Malta Libraries catalogue in order to determine if the document is already held in both national repositories. A second copy is held should there only be one copy in each. All book publications from the prior 1940s period are held, given that in the pre-war period the malpractice of removing original covers to replace with 'in house' binding deprived the National Library of possessing them as true whole copies. The chosen documents are cleaned from any residue or particulate matter, checked for missing pages, scribbling, enclosures or attachments. Should there be an evident presence of silverfish (*Lepisma saccharina*), the holding is covered in thin tissue paper in order to isolate it from the other documents.

Printed documents

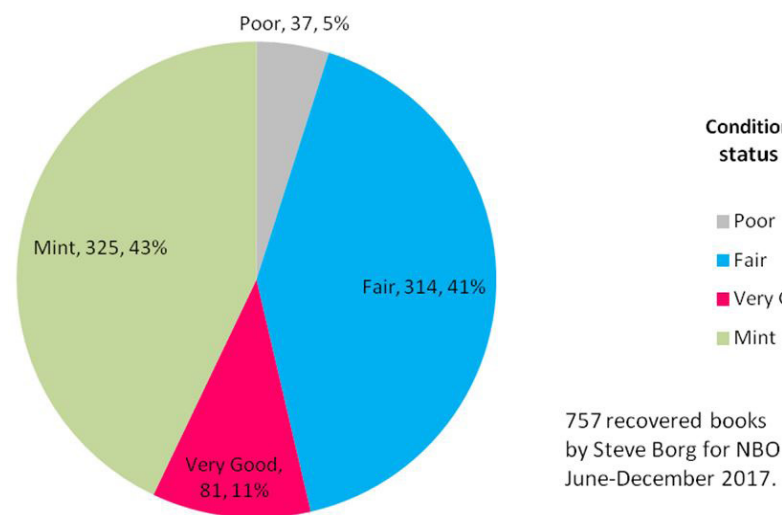
All approved documents are listed in a spreadsheet that has been created with relative mandatory fields, including bibliographic data and physical status. These include name of author or corporate body; title and subtitle; publisher and place of publication, year of publication, number of pages, physical condition, number of holdings (if any) and general remarks. The statuses for the physical condition are merited as poor, fair, very good and mint. References are made in the remarks section for documents that have a specific attribute, such as being signed by the author, are of limited circulation or require repair or fumigation.

The different formats recovered are: books (including monographs of over eight pages), periodicals, compact discs, digital video discs, audio cassettes and ephemera, which includes calendars, recipe cards and posters.

The majority of the 757 books recovered were in the Maltese language, followed by English and a few in Italian, Arabic, French, German, Russian and Japanese. This very high number of recovered



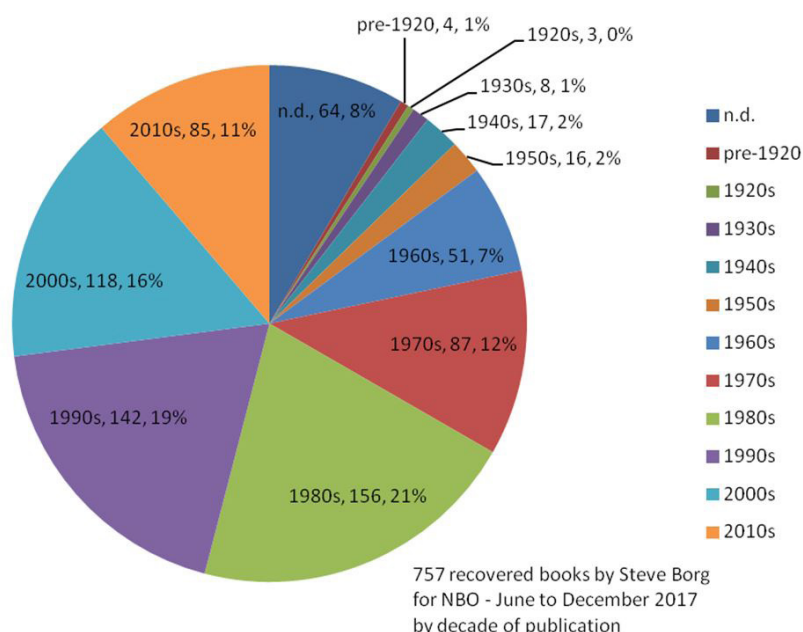
retrospective publications manifests a remarkable successful attempt in identifying lacunae in our national collections. Among the most salient acquisitions were Annibale Preca's 1895 *Storia sacra tat-testament il kadim u tat-testament il gdid*, which includes a highly defined photograph of Bishop Pietro Pace, Luigi Vella's *Ix-xahar tal-kalb ta Sidna Gesu imghoddi mal-Vergni Maria*, also from 1895 and printed at the Gozitan press of L. Attard, Saint Gorg Preca's *Il-Ktieb tas-Sinjali* printed in wartime in 1941, possibly using rice paper, and Mary Meylak's *Nirragunaw u Nitbissmu* from 1947. Books written by prominent Maltese authors, hitherto not deposited, such as those penned by Temi Zammit, Ġużè Chetcuti, Ninu Cremona, Monsignor Edward Coleiro and Dijonisju Mintoff were also recovered. From this pie chart one can consider the high amount of mint (43%) publications that were acquired. These were either purchased by their owner or received as a gift, and remained unread. Several of these had autographs or dedications. The predominant genre of mint publications were those of a devotional content. Another high percentage was those that were classified as fair (41%). Those classified as very good included a few that were nearly in mint condition but had some pencil scribbling, that is erasable, minor stains or inferior binding.



757 Melitensia retrospective publications recovered by NBO June – December 2017 by condition

The evaluation process that was undertaken included several tasks intended mainly to assess the completeness of the material, its physical condition and identification of any immediate threat to its physical wellbeing. These included a thorough inspection of all documents, with regards to the complete text as published by verifying page number sequencing, fragility or brittleness of paper, removal of third matter irrelevant to document – such as paper scraps or rusting paper clips, creases on the spine area that signified that the book had been opened and leaved, stains, moisture or fungal growth, silverfish etc. Documents that are classified as poor, only 5%, are also collected and hopefully a similar record with a better condition found to eventually replace them.

The rationale behind the categorisation of Melitensia books by decade of publication, was implied by the significant historical changes that Malta experienced throughout the 20th century. The pre-1920 category covered those documents published prior to the 1921 self-government period, the 1930s included the turbulent years when Maltese was declared (in 1934) as an official language instead of Italian and the 1940s were dominated by the Second World War.



Analysis of the recovered Melitensia publications according to decade of respective publication

This led to an acute scarcity of paper due to Malta's political isolation, resulting in a dearth of local publications, other than those dosed in propaganda and in uplifting morale, making the recovery of wartime releases an essential asset in understanding this saga better.

Hence the recovery of Dun Ġorġ Preca's doctrines, such as *Il-Ktieb tas-Sinjali*, should be given special mention. The substantial 40% of total amount accrued, relative to books dating from the 1980s and 1990s, is indicative that there were acute deficiencies in Legal Deposit enforcement and a similar high percentage should be expected during this current year. This trend persisted to 16% in the years 2000s and the prediction is that a similar pattern of recovery shall reoccur.

An amount of 423 periodicals were recovered including a whole mint set of sixteen issues of the first Journal of the Faculty of the Arts (1960-1975). Some periodicals are from the 1950s – such as the Dominicans' *The Polymath* – of which no single issue copies were held at the NLM or Gozo repositories, 39 missing issues of the children's monthly *Sagħtar*, which ceased publication in 2015, *It-Tieqa*, the mint copies of the first 42 issues of the *Malta Review* from 1962 to 1965 and numerous missing issues of *The Synapse*: the medical professionals' network volume.



Ephemera

The ephemera records, which total 373 documents, included two complete sets of limited editions of Bank of Valletta commissioned prints by local artists, calendars and 341 records of recipes from an original set of 400 written in Maltese. These were divided in 24 culinary categories and published by Anton B. Dougall's *Klabb tat-Tisjir* in the early 1980s. A complete list of the missing 59 records has been made to act as aids for future acquisition purposes.

Non-book materials

The recovery of non-book material has also commenced and currently is divided into compact discs, digital video discs and magnetic tape audio cassettes. No DAT or open reel tapes are known to have been released locally, whereas no published VHS tapes were encountered. 23 compact discs, mostly of Christian devotional lyrics or Maltese pop music featuring relatively unknown performers, and 10 digital video discs, including the professional documentary *Journey in the Mediterranean* by the late marine film maker Shaun Arrigo (d.2016). There were also 13 audio cassettes, released in analog magnetic tape format, also with predominant devotional content.

The creation of client information accounts

Several procedural strands led to the creation of active client information accounts (CIA) for Malta. The strategy adopted was to identify the public administrative sections held in ministries and their relevant agencies or entities, and the agents that publish material in the private and voluntary sector. Contact sheets were designed with mandatory contact detail fields of e-mail, telephone, contact person, official webpage, downloadable material available, traditional address and official logo. The logo was essential since several clients have quasi-similar names and therefore the need was felt to help differentiate them and reduce any margin of error.

The non-government sector is very active in Malta, with hundreds of barely known groups or societies that publish a substantial amount of literature that is intended for their own interest group. In order to attain control, subjects were categorised in different groups, as in practice by the British Library. These are animal welfare, arts & culture, vehicle collectors, cultural institutions, environmental, health support groups, heritage, language, philanthropic-local, philanthropic-foreign, recreation and re-enactment groups. Categories have also been created for sport associations, religious orders, community social/band clubs, private schools, banking institutions and publishing houses.

To complete the general mapping of a given sector, i.e. national sport associations, reference aids involved vetting the international sport bodies of various disciplines and local bodies Sports Malta and Malta Olympic Committee from where the list of the active associate members was retrieved. This structure sums up to 55 national sport associations for which all CIAs have been created. Some with a handful of member clubs within the relative association, such as fencing or cricket, others running in the tens, such as traditional bowls, *boċċi*, and football with 67 members. The CIAs for all sport associations have been created, and an early assumption indicates that these might have over 600 hundred member clubs.

CIAs have been completed for 23 active publishing houses, and for 15 animal welfare groups, 12 classic and vintage car collectors' groups, 12 cultural institutes and friendship societies, 22 health support groups, 28 heritage societies and 32 local philanthropic groups. Primary data has also been collected but not concluded for private schools, religious institutions and orders, community band clubs and parishes amongst others.

The mapping of ministerial bodies is much more complex due to the diverging composition of ministries according to successive legislatures. From the current legislature, other than the Office of the Prime Minister, there are 15 ministries, branching into 10 parliamentary secretariats, all subdividing into directorates, entities and authorities. Others are independent bodies responsible to the Courts of Law or the President of Malta. The Ministry of Tourism has been completed and mapping has been concluded for the Ministry of Energy and Water, Ministry for Gozo and Ministry for Home

Affairs and National Security. CIAs for the latter three have to be created.

Records for the Ministry for Justice, Culture & Local Government have also been started. It is indicative of the challenges to be found in created CIAs, given that authorities either become defunct or else are absorbed into new forms, such as the Valletta Rehabilitation Committee. Government restoration projects for the Maltese capital are now within the remit of the Grand Harbour Regeneration Corporation. It is pertinent that following the realities that have been encountered, efforts are made to retrieve legal deposit documents with such entities and all the seven components (Ghanafest,



Żfin Malta, Notte Bianca etc) that constitute the newly formed Festivals Malta, also part of the same ministry, and assumedly generations of many audiovisual documents, copies of which should be within the National Library and Gozo repositories.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES' NETWORK

The Malta Public Libraries' network is made up of 56 libraries comprising the Central Public Library (CPL), the Gozo Central Public Library (GCPL), 7 Regional Libraries, 36 Branch Libraries in Malta and another 11 Branch Libraries in Gozo.

Mission Statement

The Malta Public Libraries' main aim is to foster and strengthen the reading habits of people of all age groups and at every educational level for informational, educational and recreational purposes. Malta Public Libraries offer support and informational assistance to individuals, local enterprises and associations, as well as participate in formal and informal educational and literacy-related initiatives.

Internships and Voluntary Work

During 2017, the CPL accommodated 18 foreign interns mostly through the Erasmus Programme, foreign universities, and English Language Schools. These interns were given training on general library tasks and familiarisation with the library services. Orientation tours at the National Library and also at the University of Malta Library were given to these students with the aim of explaining the difference between the types of libraries and the services they offer.

Additionally, voluntary students from Pathway and other organisations were given the opportunity to carry out hands-on work experience at the CPL. During their work experience they were all given training on general library tasks and exposure to a team-led environment.



Internship students carrying out book processing at the CPL

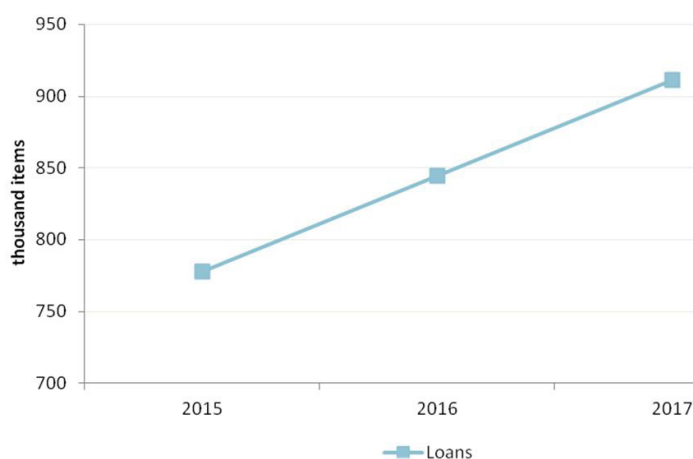
Reader Services

During the year under review, the public libraries registered 5,119 new members and circulated 906,455 book materials. The eBook service also contributed to an additional increase in book loans with another 4,521 eBook loans, reaching a total of 910,976. This resulted in an increase of 7.9 per cent over 2016. Apart from the introduction of eBook services, this increase may be mainly attributed to extensive collection refurbishment in libraries, more efficient book processing procedures, an increase

in outreach activities, and extended storytelling activities in most public libraries, in collaboration with the National Literacy Agency.

Library Book Loans 2017

E-books	4521	Mtarfa	5571
Attard	13894	Marsaxlokk	30144
Birżebbuġia	5898	Nadur	49304
Birgu	2897	Naxxar	11655
Birkirkara	112441	Paola	27221
Bormla	1563	Pembroke	6135
CPL	124634	Qala	3639
Dingli	5897	Qormi	55061
Fgura	13181	Qormi (San Ġorġ)	24110
GCPL	33829	Qrendi	12062
Għajnsielem	7932	Rabat (Malta)	9126
Għarb	5199	Safi	6788
Għargħur	3136	San Ġwann	8046
Għasri	2468	San Lawrenz	2659
Għaxaq	9767	Sannat	1773
Gudja	11535	San Pawl il-Baħar	10259
Gżira	8773	Siggiewi	6466
Ħamrun	6344	Sliema	7843
Isla	672	Sta Luċija	12406
Kalkara	3629	Tarxien	2758
Kerċem	1143	Valletta	1408
Kirkop	5502	Xagħra	10353
Luqa	29526	Xewkija	9472
Mellieħa	12685	Żabbar	14126
Mġarr (Malta)	6674	Żebbuġ	4633
Mosta	48765	Żebbuġ (Malta)	14324
Mqabba	6414	Żejtun	24306
Marsascula	23168	Żurrieq	12779
Msida	14462	TOTAL	910976



Book Loans: 2015-2017

New Members 2017

Type of member	Number of members
Adult foreign visitors*	13
Adults	1,915
Adult without Maltese citizenship*	203
Total	2,131
Junior foreign visitors*	9
Junior - 13 years & under	2,592
Intermediate - 14 years to 17 years	106
Intermediate - 14 years to 17 years with additional Adult lending rights**	23
Junior - 13 years & under without Maltese citizenship*	57
Intermediate - 14 years to 17 years without Maltese citizenship*	11
Total	2,798
Guests***	189
Staff members	1
Total	5,119

* Require a Maltese citizen guarantee

** Require a written permit from guardians

*** Online Registrations

Audiovisual Library

The Audiovisual Library registered a total number of 717 sessions. Consequently, a one hour limit was implemented on busy days. Since this Section is also supplied with free Wi-Fi access, a number of customers also utilised the service through their own laptop and/or tablet.

Reference Services

The Reference Library retained popularity among researchers as well as those seeking a quiet place to carry out projects or just relax with their personal laptop, tablet or smartphone due to the free Wi-Fi access and free electrical outlets. The collection was enhanced by an extensive weeding exercise and a good number of new reference and Melitensia publications. The Melitensia Section, which is incorporated in the Reference Library, aims to include most of the reference material published in Malta or by Maltese authors. Furthermore, gaps in specific subject areas were identified and book stock was acquired accordingly to meet customers' needs.

Talking Books Section

The Talking Book Service was launched in April during the Libraries Day activities which were spread out over a week. The ceremony was held at the Central Public Library and presided over by Her Excellency the President of Malta Dr Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca and Permanent Secretary Mr Joseph Caruana. The Talking Book Service replaced the former Services for the Blind to render a more comprehensive and all-encompassing service. The previous audio cassette collection, which has been in place since 1968, has been updated and converted to mp3 format and new material has also been recorded to meet the ever-growing demand and standards. This service aims to reach out not

only to library members with visual impairment and the housebound but also members with reading difficulties or those who require or prefer the audio format of a book.

During 2017, Talking Book loans amounted to 8,982, of which 638 were pen drives. Furthermore, around 57 user-friendly MP3-playing devices were acquired to be distributed against a deposit to a number of registered members.

This Unit is immensely supported by volunteers who willingly give up some of their time to record new material at the Recording Studio that this section is equipped with.



Launch of the Talking Book Service inaugurated by Her Excellency the President of Malta

Acquisitions and Collection Management

Public libraries were again allocated a book budget according to their performance which was mainly ascribed to the number of loans issued during the previous year. The aim was to motivate librarians to strive harder to achieve satisfactory results.

The Public Libraries acquired €83,047.37 worth of library material. This amounted to 12,129 library materials comprising of printed books, 139 eBooks and also an increase in the collection of dyslexia-friendly material and graphic novels. Moreover, another 33,862 books were acquired through donations mainly from the Local Councils, the National Book Council, the National Literacy Agency, Inspire, Heritage Malta, Gutenberg Press Ltd, Graphic Novels Library Malta, book suppliers, authors and the general public. The U.S. Embassy also donated comics to the Central Public Library where Her Excellency the Ambassador of the United States of America, G. Kathleen Hill, inaugurated an American Shelf. Thanks to the support of the U.S. Embassy, the general public can enjoy a number of graphic novels by well-known American authors. Among the titles are *March* by civil rights activist and Congressman John Lewis, *Zita The Space Girl* by Ben Hatke, and *Game of Thrones* by George R.R. Martin. This donation is part of an awareness campaign by the NGO Graphic Novels Library Malta (GNLM) to expand and enhance the visibility of the Graphic Novel Collection at the Library. The existing collection was first made possible due to a crowd funding campaign in the summer of 2016.



U.S. embassy donates comics to the Central Public Library

An evaluation and upgrading process as indicated in the proposed Manifesto was carried out in a number of public libraries around Malta and also in the Gozo Public Libraries. The collection of these libraries has been updated with the latest titles and irrelevant and outdated material was weeded out. An evaluation of the current state and ways for improvement were taken into consideration.

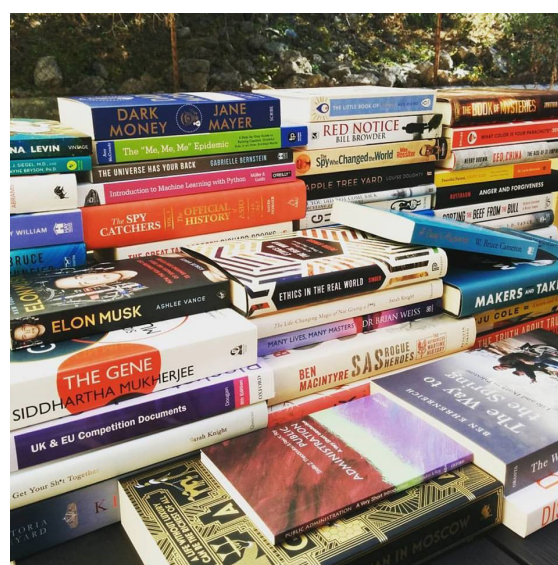
The book fund also catered for the acquisition of books for the Mellieha and Mtarfa Homes for the elderly, for which processing and cataloguing of respective material was carried out. In addition, the book collection at the YOURS library within the Correctional Facilities was evaluated and new books were purchased, processed and catalogued for the inmates to make use of.

Other Public Libraries' Developments

The Local Councils were supported in the purchasing of new titles and also encouraged to participate in the financial initiative provided by the Local Government Department to support the public libraries. A total of 45 Local Councils participated in this initiative. Besides books, the Local Councils were encouraged to invest in air conditioners and Wi-Fi, where for the latter a feasible price was negotiated in collaboration with the Malta Communications Authority.

Cataloguing and Classification Section

The cataloguing team is now made up of 31 staff members. In 2017, the cataloguing team added 57,886 new items to the Public Libraries' collections. Continuous training in new cataloguing developments was provided to the cataloguing team with special emphasis given to standardisation of records.



Acquisition of new books

Central Public Library Refurbishment

The CPL Junior Library underwent an extensive weeding and refurbishment exercise which was initiated towards the end of 2016. This refurbishing project, which included a play area, was launched in April and since then a number of events and activities were hosted in this newly refurbished and attractive space.

Plans for 2018 include the refurbishment of the Adult Library which will be newly designed to reflect today's needs. This project will include new tiles and tile laying, re-installation of electricity, new shelving and a boost in the collection.



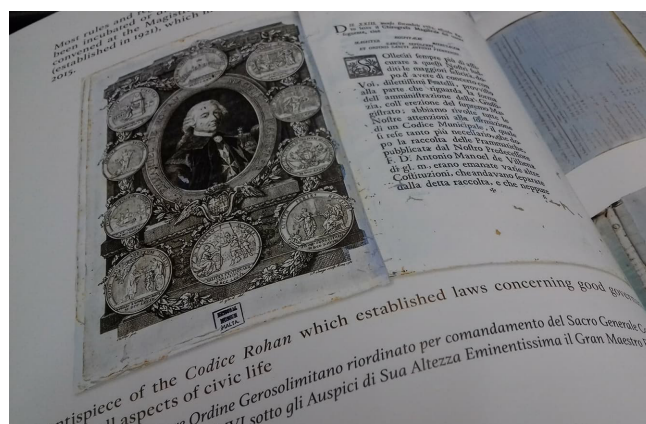
OUTREACH AND PR

To remain a positive force in society, library and information services must redefine their own ways of working. In recent years the National Library has looked afresh at its role as a research library and while its core role to collect, preserve and make available the country's publications to support learning and research remains unchanged, its redefined purpose is to widen access for all who can use, enjoy and benefit from its collections, expertise and services. The same outreach efforts are being made to ensure Public Libraries continue to be more viable by promoting reading through a diversity of activities and overcoming barriers that may prevent people with visual impairment, mobility issues, learning difficulties and care homes from making use of available library services. It has been both a challenging and rewarding process.

Exhibitions

The memory of Malta lives within the National Library's collections and Malta Libraries takes the responsibility of providing accessibility to this national treasure primarily through exhibitions.

Valletta 1566, Melita Renascens commemorating the laying of the foundation stone of Valletta was a joint collaboration with Heritage Malta, inaugurated in July 2016 and remaining open to the public for a whole year until July 2017. Educational workshops and a competition to complement the exhibition were organised by Heritage Malta at the National Library between 1st and 24th March.



Sixteenth-century Fine Book Bindings from the National Library collections were on display in the exhibition **Malta, Land of Sea** set up in Brussels on the occasion of the Maltese Presidency of the European Union with the support of BOZAR, Arts Council Malta and Heritage Malta. The exhibition ran from 17th February to 28th May.





In honour of the official visit of the Head of the Russian Imperial House, Grand Duchess Maria Vladimirovna to Malta in June, Malta Libraries complemented the exhibition held by the Russian Centre for Science and Culture with selected documents from the National Library archives.



In September the National Library hosted Dr Stephen C. Spiteri's art exhibition **Hal Niesi – the Forgotten Hamlet** showcasing original pen-and-ink landscape drawings. The exhibition was followed up by engaging discussions by Dr Stephen Spiteri, Francesca Balzan and Ray Agius.



To mark the 100th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 the exhibition **From Absolutism to Glasnost: a Journey into Russian History through the National Library Collections** was launched in November. During the launch Prof. Henry Frendo, Dr Giuseppe Schembri Bonaci and Mr Andrei Muraviev, director of the Russian Centre for Science and Culture, took the audience present through a journey into Russian history from the first envoy to Malta in 1698 right up to the Bush-Gorbachev summit in 1989.

The repeated success of the exhibition **Mixjet il-Malti** created jointly with the Maltese Department within the National Curriculum Centre has now become an annual date on Malta Libraries' calendar. Grade 10 students attend sessions that are made up of three workshops which include a presentation about the history of the National Library, a demonstration on book binding and book restoration and a hands-on workshop on items displayed in the exhibition related to authentic publications of Maltese authors and poets that the students are studying for their Maltese SEC project. Just over 300 secondary school students this year benefited from this opportunity. The positive feedback led to requests to extend this activity to Junior College students and undergraduates.



Education

Malta Libraries' vision is to create readers for life so our focus this year was on initiating an exciting programme of creative, digital, inspirational and literary enhancing activities over the summer recess at the Central Public Library in Floriana to target all ages ranging from kids to senior citizens, sometimes bringing them all together as a family.

Ejwew Nesploraw il-Baħar was an interactive family-friendly activity using the mural in the Junior Section of the Central Public Library as a theme. **A Journey into the World of Comics** involved a presentation for those who are intimidated by the amount of text in traditional books and to encourage them to explore a different genre. **Discover the Artist in You** explored how to transform a doodle into a book cover illustration and **Guide Dog Awareness** delved into the training of guide puppies and how they help their owners. **Feel the Rhythm** focused on great classical music that was inspired by books and **Let's get Physical** got attendees to build up a sweat. **Meet the Author and Illustrator** involved a session on how to invent amazing characters and create illustrations to accompany the stories and **Get to Know your Library through Photography** was a way of exploring the library through a photography-based game and competing in a snapshot challenge. **Discover the World of Coding** entailed an introduction on how to control robots, defeat monsters and even write your own games through code.





The programme continued well into the winter months with a digital literacy activity after the coding session met with an amazing response. **Come meet Marty the Robot and learn to code with Ozobot** in October saw kids fully immersed in giving commands to Ozobots with markers and colour codes.

A Family Fun Day for the mid-term holidays included **Nibnu Storja**, an improvised story with puppets, props and costumes acted out by the audience. To go with the theme of Halloween, paper cut-out designs of spooky images were made during the art activity. **Magic: the Gathering** brought together 11 to 15-year-olds to play the card game that combines strategy, fantasy and fun. A sing-along was led by a **real-life Elsa** for **Frozen** fans followed by a storytelling session of **Seher I-Istejjer**.





Christmas at the Library kicked off with the weekly Aqra Miegħi session, followed by Auntie Sab's hands-on workshop on how to discover inner strengths with the **new superheroes Jake and Emily**. The kids then joined in the elf-led sing-along, before taking a photo with Santa in his grotto and receiving a gift as a memento of the day. As in previous years funds raised went towards the Malta Community Chest Fund Foundation. On the same day Malta Libraries' outreach team also held an activity-packed day **Il-Milied fil-Librerija** at Nadur Library, attracting no less than 140 people. The

children present each received a book donated by Nadur Local Council.



Outreach Projects

Our partnership with the **Active Ageing Unit** has seen more elderly people living in **Care Homes** benefiting from animated reading sessions that are run weekly by Malta Libraries. What started off as a pilot project in March 2016, the reading sessions for the Mellieħa Home residents were extended to the Mtarfa and Msida Homes. These outreach sessions provide talking points, shared experiences, memories and knowledge for Care Home residents. With the support of the Active Ageing Unit a library was set up at Mellieħa Home where a book lending service is also being provided. We hope to double our outreach efforts to more Homes for the Elderly and **Day Care Centres** so that through reading our senior citizens will remain alert in mind and spirit.

The Outreach team of Malta Libraries has recently teamed up with LEAP and has been promoting library services at **LEAP** centres to reach categories within society that may not ordinarily use a library. Networking with NGOs that share Malta Libraries' mission is allowing us to expand the number of potential partners to work with, enabling us to reach a broader range of age groups and social backgrounds as well as heighten awareness of our library services.

For those with a visual impairment, mobility issues or reading difficulties, the **Talking Book** service can still enable them to enjoy the pleasure a good book brings. The former Services for the Blind which was set up in 1968 is being updated to be in line with present-day needs. To this end the previous audio cassette collection is being converted to mp3 format enabling interested users to receive a library catalogue by post, tick titles from a range of genres they wish to listen to and borrow up to

two pen drives for a period of four weeks. Demonstrations are also given by staff on the use of the memory stick player that is available on loan to members who wish to avail themselves of this service.

Conferences

For the first time the National Library hosted **EBLIDA's** round table conference on February 22nd bringing together Maltese MEPs Dr Therese Comodini Cachia, Dr Roberta Metsola, Dr Alfred Sant, EBLIDA and MaLIA representatives, Public Libraries 2020 and Malta Libraries to discuss **Libraries in the 21st century**. The discussion covered an overview of Libraries in Europe, Libraries and digital skills and copyright reform. On 23rd and 24th February EBLIDA also chose to hold their Executive Committee Meeting at the National Library.



The Directorate for Research, Lifelong Learning and Innovation also held one of the sessions of its 'Breaking Barriers' project at the National Library. Fifteen key experts in digital media and literacy from the UK, Italy, Cyprus, Netherlands, Macedonia, Norway and Poland met to address challenges in adult literacy and to 'break barriers' faced by both learners and educators.

Another first was the **XXIV European Congress of the Young European Federalists** organised by JEF Malta. 160 young people from 27 countries met at the National Library in November for a three-day conference to discuss draft resolutions on a wide range of topics, such as citizenship throughout Brexit, the EU's foreign policy towards African countries, the institutional design of the Eurozone and to elect a new Executive Board and Federal Committee for 2017-2019.



Tours of the National Library



The National Library welcomed a steady stream of students throughout the whole year. Whereas in previous years requests for orientation visits were mostly for the week leading up to Libraries Day, this year tours by staff were conducted all year round for primary, secondary, Junior College students and University graduates, including Dutch students specialising in Linguistics, Danish and Belgian students on assignments about Malta's cultural identity and PhD German students of medieval history. It was also a pleasure to have a group of parents include visits to the National Library for their sons and daughters during the summer months to cultivate a love of culture from a young age. The same service is offered by the Gozo National Library and the public libraries on the island.



The National Library has also become a famous landmark for tourists, especially among those who are more culturally inclined. In February courtesy visits were made by Mr Mario Cutajar, Principal Permanent Secretary, Ms Julienne Hince, the then newly-appointed Australian High Commissioner, EU archivists in April and

35 delegates from EU member states attending the EUDIA meeting in June.

Book Launches and Presentations

Always at the forefront to promote writing, especially for children from a very young age, it was indeed an honour for Malta Libraries to have Grade 2 students from San Anton School launch their book and accompanying CD *Who lived here?* Another book launch was by Year 6 students from Gozo College Rabat Primary. The stories and illustrations of these budding writers were published in *The Going Up Book*. Both initiatives were part of the *Kreattiv Project* financed by the Malta Arts Council. Malta Libraries is proud to have copies of these publications which both schools donated to be circulated in all public libraries.

On April 5th the European Law Students' Association (ELSA) launched their policy paper on environmental law and their book *Project Jurisprudence Book II* at the National Library. The launch was followed by a very heated debate on ODZ. The speakers present were Prof. Simone Borg, Dr Patrick Galea, Dr Peter Borg Costanzi, Dr Ian Stafrace and Dr Robert Musumeci.



In May other book presentations were made to Malta Libraries by Lions Club Marengo who sponsored and published a book on Helen Keller – who was a great inspiration to Lions Club International in fighting visual impairment – and by Hamrun Local Council with titles aimed at mixed ages and abilities, including a wide range of dyslexia-friendly publications and Braille for early years during a literary and musical morning of activities for library users at the Hamrun Public Library.



In August the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat Malta donated books to all public libraries as a means of fostering reading habits among people of diverse backgrounds.



September saw the donation by the Foundation for IT Accessibility (FITA) of the Braille publication of the Maltese novel **San Ġwann** by Ġużè Galea.

Malta Libraries is also grateful to Gutenberg Press Ltd for their regular donations of books covering many different genres of writing.

In November the National Library provided the perfect location for the launch and book signing of the photographic study by Charles Paul Azzopardi and Conrad Thake in Portals of Valletta.

Literary Evenings, Lectures and Debates





A literary evening related to Good Friday and Easter was held at the Gozo National Library on 18th March and another with a Christmas theme on 9th December, both coordinated by Chev. Joe M. Attard.

On May 24th a public lecture on the publication *Il-Biblioteka Maltese* written by Injazju Saverju Mifsud was delivered at the National Library of Malta by Dr Olvin Vella whose inimitable delivery style kept attendees actively engaged.

To mark the 70th anniversary of women's suffrage in Malta, the Labour Party held a debate at the National Library on November 7th. The welcome address was made by National Librarian and CEO, Ms Cheryl Falzon, who referred to the documents housed at the National Library that related to the historical event and which were displayed for the occasion. Ms Claudette Abela Baldacchino then spoke of the significance of the event and a four panel discussion ensued made up of Ms Renée Laiviera, Mr George Vital Zammit, Dr Carmen Sammut and Ms Jos Ann Cutajar. The closing address was made by the Prime Minister, Dr Joseph Muscat.

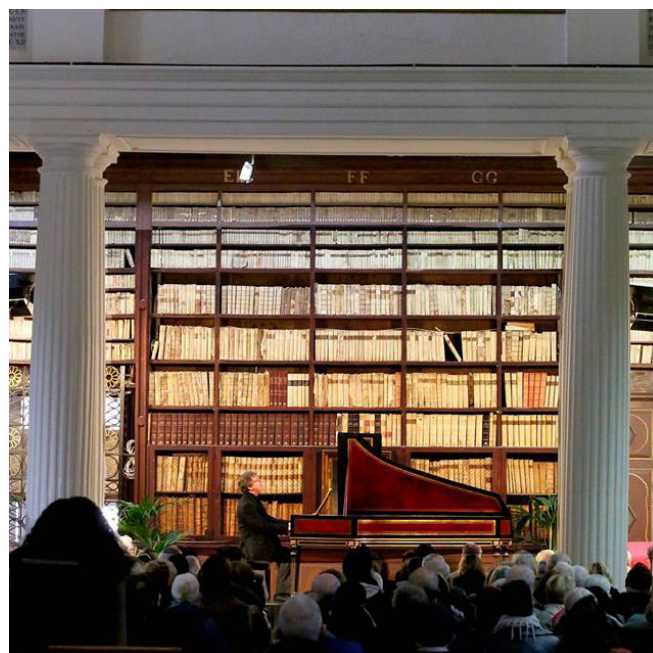


National Cultural Events

2017 saw Malta Libraries participate in yet more national cultural events.

For the third year running the acoustic main hall of the National Library lent itself to another three lunchtime concerts as part of the **Valletta International Baroque Festival**.

In April Malta Libraries was invited by the Department of Maltese of the University of Malta in collaboration with the National Book Council to run an animated reading session for senior citizens in Care Homes at the **Book Festival on Campus**. The attendees





had the opportunity of meeting author Charles Casha whose book *Minn fuq I-Ghatba* was read. The session gave rise to a healthy interaction between author and audience present because although the best way to a writer's mind is through his books, some knowledge of the circumstances of Charles Casha's life offered some very valuable insights.

Libraries' Day this year saw the launch at the Central Public Library in Floriana of the **Talking Book service** which has replaced the former Services for the Blind and Housebound. Her Excellency the President of Malta, Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca officially inaugurated the service.



Other activities included an informative talk by Graphic Novels Library Malta (GNLM) and to spread the power of reading, storytelling sessions *Aqra Miegħi/Read with Me* and *Seħer I-Istejjer/The Magic of stories* were run by the National Literacy Agency in public libraries across the island. Malta Libraries and the National Literacy Agency continuously work together to inspire people to read more and celebrate the difference that reading makes to people's lives. Thanks to this partnership multisensory storytelling sessions have also been added

to the existing programme for children with autism and learning difficulties and weekly storytelling sessions extended throughout more public libraries. This summer we were again delighted to participate in and support the successful reading campaign **Aqra fis-Sajf** and the accompanying bookmark competition launched by the Hon. Minister Evarist Bartolo. For **Europe Day** held at Villa Rundle, Victoria, Gozo on May 7th Malta Libraries had its own stand displaying the latest acquisitions in Gozo public libraries and our participation at the family event at **Ta' Dbiegi Crafts, Għarb** also served as a platform to promote library services and register new members.



For the first time Malta Libraries also participated in this year's edition of **Europe Code Week** through an activity of digital literacy and coding skills organised in collaboration with eSkills Malta Foundation at the Central Public Library. Malta Libraries was awarded a certificate of recognition.

As in previous years Malta Libraries had its own stand at the **Malta Book Festival** organised by the National Book Council. Its contribution was through the sale of the National Library's publications, the running of storytelling sessions and the promotion of Public Libraries.

Almost 1,000 people this year enjoyed special access to the National Library on **Notte Bianca**. For the first time children were treated to an improvised play through puppets, an activity which engaged both young and old that attended the session. For the fifth consecutive year the two-day

Gozo Book Fest was an opportunity to showcase collections of the Gozo National Library as well as a literary evening with interesting contributions by Anton F. Attard, Charles Bezzina and Joe Camilleri. As in previous years the hands-on research session for the 243 students that attended accompanied by their teachers generated a lot of interest. The evening ended with the book launch of Sergio



Grech's Anton Tabone- Il-Pont bejn Ghawdex Regjun u Malta Nazzjon. Speakers were Sergio Grech, Gordon Pisani and Dr Anton Refalo.

In December Malta Libraries for the first time participated in the **Malta Comic Con 2017** to promote graphic novels and encourage the reading of a different genre of writing.

Media Exposure of National Library Collections

In the year under review the National Library has considerably widened its access to its collections by



maintaining a constant presence on both local and foreign media. In this way the Library's collections as cultural assets were made accessible not only to researchers and visitors, but also to the general public. Requests for filming continued throughout the year in anticipation of Valletta 2018 enabling Malta Libraries to bring this prestigious building and its holdings to a wider audience.

The National Library and its holdings attracted the interest of TV producers of the documentary series **Valletta – Ilwien ta' Belt, Deheb il-Karta** and **Maltarti** on TVM and **Irkejjen Storici** on Net TV.





National Library archives related to diplomacy in the time of the Order of St John and the digitisation of archives featured prominently in a PBS production about European Diplomatic Archives for the Digital Assembly 2017 co-organised by the European Commission and the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union, while the preservation process of the National Library treasures was filmed for **Xjenzarti**. The same goes for collections at the Gozo National Library which featured prominently in the TV programme **Ghawdex Illum**.

The interest in the National Library was not only limited to local TV. National Library manuscripts also appeared on Japanese TV in a documentary about Malta and on the international TV series **Mediterraneo**.



The ongoing popularity of social media has also seen the number of followers on Facebook and Twitter increase.

Photo Shoots and Filming

Throughout 2017 the National Library featured in Lufthansa magazine promoting Valletta as a high-end destination and the European Capital of Culture. The Malta Tourism Authority promoted the National Library on the Conventions Malta Website. The National Library also served as a promotional launch for Ira Losco's video of 'We are the Soldiers'; for Malta's National Theatre company - Teatru Malta, in May; as a backdrop for an interview with Turner-prize-winning artist Ms Susan Phimark the 30th anniversary of the Erasmus programme; the weekly programme on TVM Xi Qrajt Dan L-Aħħar?; for the Prime Minister's New Year's message to the nation and, as in previous years, for pre-wedding photo shoots and civil wedding ceremonies



Ira Losco - We are The Soldiers



The reinvention of the National Library and indeed all Public Libraries is an ongoing process. While Malta Libraries' continuing mission is to explore new services and programmes to support new audiences, it must never lose sight of its key role of providing free access to knowledge, information and culture to society.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT UNIT (ICTSU)

Daily services provided by the ICTSU for Malta Libraries

The ICT Support Unit (ICTSU) is directly responsible for the management of all the Malta Libraries Information Systems (LIS) and all its portals, all its ICT infrastructure comprising of more than 180 PCs and laptops, over 300 peripheral equipment and various local area networks (LANs). It is also responsible for the management of third-party suppliers, including MITA, in order to supervise all hardware and software-related faults reported daily, as well as requests for password changes and the configuration of access to new employees and students and the revocation of same for transferred/retired employees. Moreover, the ICTSU handles a good number of daily requests for information on the use of the library system and other matters through telephone calls and emails. The ICTSU also handles all purchasing relating to ICT hardware for the Malta Libraries and monitors all ICT-related contracts on behalf of the Entity. Through the management of the Entity's Library Information System, a total of 100 incidents and/or requests were raised with the system's supplier, followed up, tested, concluded and documented.

Upgrading of the main LIS, V-smart

A new graphical user interface has been installed on top of the back end system of Malta Libraries' LIS. Moreover, the back end system, and its ancillary software packages were also upgraded. Rigorous training had to be organised in this regard and 10 training sessions were organised where a total of 76 members of staff were trained. A new training manual was written and printed by the same unit in order to be used in these training sessions. 99 PCs and laptops had to be revisited in order to configure these to be able to access the newly upgraded system.

Overdue Notices

The project of issuing Reservations, Overdue and Courtesy notices to the public via SMS, e-mail and in print format where applicable, initiated in 2016, was concluded by March 2017

New Libraries

Five new libraries were required to be configured within the main (LIS) in 2017. These were the mobile libraries within the elderly homes of Mtarfa and Mellieħa, two libraries within the Correctional Facility of Corradino, and the newly upgraded Talking Books Library

Upgrading of PABX services at the Central Public Library (CPL)

The analogue PABX equipment installed at the CPL has been replaced through the extension of the new PABX VoIP services newly installed at the Ministry of Education. The ICTSU concluded all the necessary upgrading to the network infrastructure and together with the Information Management Unit at the Ministry of Education, drew up the required plans which ultimately concluded the installation of the new telephony services with the solid contribution of both services and hardware made by the same Information Management Unit.

Upgrading of the ICT Infrastructure and ICT Services at the Gozo Libraries

Following the merging of all Gozo Libraries with Malta Libraries and the investigatory visits made in 2016, the ICTSU completed the task by upgrading all the PCs in the current 11 branch libraries in Gozo. In order to put all libraries in Gozo in line with Directive 3 of the Public Service, all Gozo libraries have now been provided access to the Common Database (CDB) in order to phase out the requirements of library clients in Gozo to provide civil birth certificates when enrolling as members of the library for the first time. Free public internet Wi-Fi has been introduced in the Gozo Central Public Library (GCPL) while the free public internet Wi-Fi already present at the National Library (Gozo) was also upgraded. Photocopy services for the public were reintroduced at the GCPL and charging tariffs aligned with those set by Malta Libraries. The Internet terminals available at the GCPL have also been upgraded and the whole process re-engineered thus enabling the public wider access to the internet and the ability to print from websites, as well as to enable monthly usage statistics to be issued for this service.

New/Extensions to the Network Infrastructure

New offices are currently underway to house the National Bibliographic Office. The ICTSU took care of the installation of a new LAN in these new offices. A LAN extension was also required at the new Rabat Regional Library premises, The ICTSU coordinated the latter with the Information Management Unit of the Ministry of Education, who ultimately laid down the new infrastructure. The ICTSU also took care of the planning of the electrical requirements of these new offices and library in order to make sure all the ICT power-related requirements are met accordingly.

Support to the National Literacy Agency

ICTSU provided ongoing support to the School Libraries Information System by coordinating MITA and the System's Supplier's support in this regard. A total number of nine incidents and/or requests were raised, followed up, tested, concluded and documented. The ICTSU also coordinated and documented the testing and the installations of a number of patches installed on the OLIVER school library system. The procedure for the importing of the data of the yearly intake of new students in public schools, was also successfully concluded in October.

Support to the National Book Council

The ICTSU successfully issued the Public Lending Rights report on a quarterly basis on behalf of the National Book Council.

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

The role of the Operations Department is that of providing essential support services to the Entity .

The core functions are:

- Finance (accounts, procurement and asset management)
- Office Management
- Human Resources
- Registry
- Parliamentary Questions
- Marketing and Outreach

Finance

During 2017, the Finance Section continued to provide operational support to Director Operations in all matters related to finance and administration.

The Finance section was responsible for the administration of funds provided under **Item 6802**. This section was also responsible for the management of funding for capital projects and acquisition of books. The Section was involved in the procurement of goods and services, from the initial stage of the raising of commitments up to the settlement of invoices within a reasonable period of time through the Departmental Accounting System.

The Section was also involved in:

- Providing assistance in the preparation of travel documents required by the Entity's officials when travelling abroad on official business, including the issuing of travel advances to said officials.
- The submission of financial statements including monthly re-assessment of Budgetary Estimates, monthly cash flow projections and quarterly financial statements on accrual basis;
- The compilation of financial information related to the drafting of replies to Parliamentary Questions;

Human Resources

This Section processed the recruitment, appointment, progression and promotion of several personnel in various grades throughout the whole Entity. Circulars were issued to fill new or vacant positions within the Entity. Calls for applications filled various posts and contractual positions enhance the Entity's needs and operations. The HR Section processed the following:

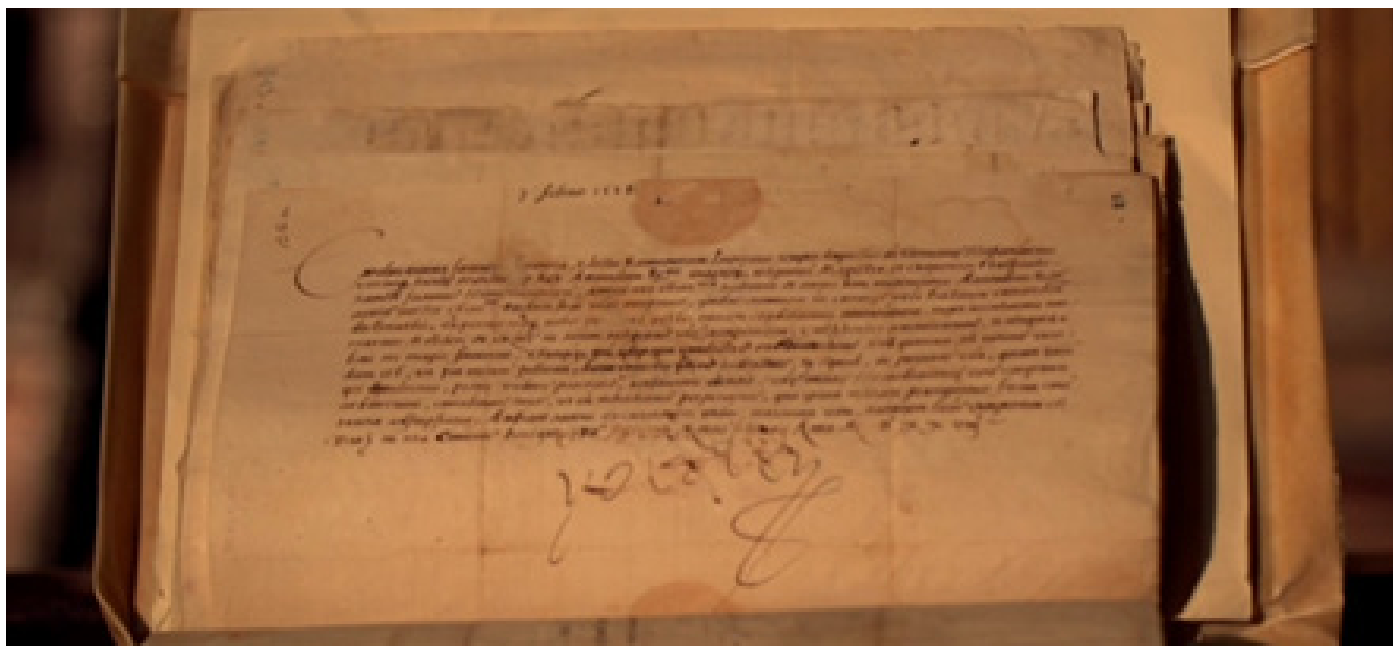
14 Different calls for Posts and Positions (12 Internal Calls + 2 External Calls)

During 2017, HR Section continued with the preparation and payment of four-weekly salaries of staff at the Entity. Constant monitoring of the Personal Emoluments, particularly the allowances and overtime items, was maintained throughout the year.

Registry

The Registry continued to provide the core service of recording and tracking all incoming correspondence with the following statistics:

<i>New files</i>	76
<i>Parliamentary Questions</i>	60



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PART A - Statement of Financial Performance (Income Expenditure Statement)

TOTAL OWN GENERATED REVENUE

Income generated from own operations
Other operating income
Bank interest receivable

Total own generated revenue (i)

December 2017 to Date	Forecast for the Year ending 2017
12336	
12336	0

GRANTS AND OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS - RECURRENT

Parliamentary Appropriation - Government Subvention receivable for Recurrent Expenditure (i)
Other contributions from other public administration
Donations receivable from sponsorships
EU Grants receivable to cover Recurrent Expenditure featuring under 'Total Expenses' below
Other Grants receivable

Total Grants and Other contributions (ii)

December 2017 to Date	Forecast for the Year ending 2017
2741000	2741000
2741000	2741000

a. TOTAL INCOME [i + ii]

2753336	2741000
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TOTAL EXPENSES

Direct operating expenses - recurrent
Salaries and wages
Bonus and income supplement
Social Security Contributions
Allowances
Overtime
Utilities
Material and Supplies
Repair and Upkeep
Rent
International memberships
Office Services
Transport
Travel
Information services
Contractual services
Professional services
Training
Hospitality
Incidental expenses
Bank interest payable
Bad debts written off
Increase in provision for bad debts
Decrease in provision for bad debts
Other Provisions
Depreciation charge
Other recurrent expenditure funded through EU Grants
Other Expenditure

b. Total Expenditure

December 2017 to Date	Forecast for the Year ending 2017
1860216	1600000
49538	55000
171827	144000
160734	205000
12521	8000
66356	102000
72250	162422
9183	12000
17281	75000
0	0
15054	14000
16000	12000
3357	2500
41912	60000
207901	248000
0	2000
1596	3500
0	0
0	0
0	0
0	0
0	0
0	0
0	0
0	0
0	0
39223	35578
2744949	2741000

Surplus / (Deficit) before tax [a - b]

8387	0
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Tax expense

Tax expense

Net surplus / (Deficit) for the period

December 2017 to Date	Forecast for the Year ending 2017
8387	0

Capital Vote

Improvements to Buildings

Actual	Estimates
€	€
<u>49,909</u>	<u>50,000</u>

Acquisition of Books Vote

Income received from Publications
Publications, Newspapers, Subscriptions
Net expenditure

Actual	Estimates
€	€
2,064	-00
<u>102,064</u>	<u>100,000</u>
<u>100,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>



**MALTA
LIBRARIES**

