| **Name of national library in full (in your own language and in anglicised form):** | Bibljoteka Nazzjonali  
The National Library of Malta |
| **Name of Director General with official title:** | Ms Cheryl Falzon, National Librarian and CEO, Malta Libraries |
| **Main library address:** | Old Treasury Street  
Valletta VLT 1410  
Malta |
| **Current logo as a .jpg:** | ![Current logo](image) |

Exterior - The Façade of the National Library

The Reading Hall includes the exhibition area (in front), the research area (in the middle), and the area for public
events (at the rear). This photo was taken during an event after research hours.

The Digitization Studio

1) Please provide simplified plans of your buildings, if possible in .jpg format (perhaps those used to guide visitors around your building).
   Not applicable, since only the Reading Hall is accessible to the public through the main staircase from the entrance hall. The footprint of the premises is basically a rectangular shape, and spaces within it are on different levels.

2) Please provide brief details on the history of your library buildings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year (first) library building opened</th>
<th>1761</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Architect of (first) library</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building</td>
<td>Architect of (current) library building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1812</td>
<td>Stefano Ittar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1555 - issue of decree by Grand Master Claude de la Sengle whereby all books in the legacy of deceased knights are to pass to the Common Treasury of the Order

1649 - formation of a small library housed in a room over the oratory of St. John’s Conventual Church

1760 - purchase by Fra’ Louis Guérin de Tencin of the collection belonging to Cardinal Joaquin Portocarrero

1761 - de Tencin identifies a large building known as "Il Forfantone" where to house his now enlarged collection. He pays a rent of 120 scudi a year to the Treasury of the Order

1766 - death of de Tencin, considered the founder of the Public Library. The Library is named the Bibliotheca Tanseana in his honour

1776 - formal foundation of a 'Pubblica Biblioteca' decreed at the Chapter General of the Order convened by Grand Master de Rohan. Decision to build new library premises to designs of Stefano Ittar, a Polish-born architect residing in Italy

1785 - Stefano Ittar (1724-90) appointed architect to design a new building to house the library

1786 - building of new premises begins

1796 - completion of new building (present premises) but library collection remains at the Forfantone. Two years later the Order of St John is expelled from Malta by Napoleon

1812 - official inauguration of new premises by British Civil Commissioner, Sir Hildebrand Oakes

1925 - the Library acquires its "legal deposit" status by an Act of Parliament

1936 - the Library receives the prefix "Royal" and becomes the Royal Malta Library

1937 - the Archives of the Order of St John are transferred to the Royal Malta Library from the Public Registry premises

1976 - With the setting up of the new Public Library in Floriana, the Library in Valletta is officially designated as the “National Library of Malta” and becomes solely a research and reference library

2011 - Through the Malta Libraries Act (Act No. VII of 2011) which came into effect in August 2011, a totally new set-up for the libraries sector in Malta was established. The former Department of Libraries was replaced by Malta Libraries, the agency now responsible for the National Library of Malta, the National Library (Gozo), the Central Public Library, the Gozo Public Library, and the Regional and Branch public libraries.
Links:

https://www.maltalibraries.gov.mt/iguana/www.main.cls?p=788374c8-8d6d-44d6-bd24-eb7a87b79d2c&v=010a42ff-6575-4531-adfa-dfbb8fb0cc61