


<b>Name of national library in full (in your own language and in anglicised form):</b>	Bibljojoteka Nazzjonali The National Library of Malta
<b>Name of Director General with official title:</b>	Ms Cheryl Falzon, National Librarian and CEO, Malta Libraries
<b>Main library address:</b>	Old Treasury Street Valletta VLT 1410 Malta
<b>Current logo as a .jpg:</b>	



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.**

<b>Year (first) library building opened</b>	1761
<b>Architect of (first) library</b>	Unknown

<b>building</b>	
<b>Year (current) library building opened</b>	1812
<b>Architect of (current) library building</b>	Stefano Ittar
<b>Any additional information. Eg length of build/cost of build/reason for build</b>	The current building was constructed between 1776 and 1786 but was inaugurated in 1812 during the British administration of Malta. It was designed purposely to house a library since the building previously in use had grown too small to contain the ever-growing collection.

**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>

[https://www.maltalibraries.gov.mt/iguana/www.main.cls?surl=search&p=\\*#recordId=1.6477&srchDb=1](https://www.maltalibraries.gov.mt/iguana/www.main.cls?surl=search&p=*#recordId=1.6477&srchDb=1)