



MALTA  
LIBRARIES



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

# MALTA LIBRARIES ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2018**

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# MISSION STATEMENT

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The mission of Malta Libraries is to ensure the collection and conservation of Malta's documentary heritage for present and future generations, to maintain and develop the libraries regulated under the Malta Libraries Act, and to encourage reading for study, research, self-development and lifelong-learning information and leisure purposes.

MALTA LIBRARIES ACT 2011

”

# FUNCTIONS

- 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.

# FOREWORD

## FROM THE CEO



**Cheryl Falzon**  
*National Librarian & CEO*



**The year 2018 has been yet another remarkable year for Malta Libraries. Its main highlight was undoubtedly Malta Libraries' branding exercise. Launched on World Book Day and National Libraries Day on 23rd April, the aim of this exercise was to give the entity a strong recognisable logo and a professional look across the board. This exercise was the initial step to re-define Malta Libraries' mission and values, to create a sense of ownership among its staff members, and to attract more patrons to make use of the extensive library services we now offer.**

The National Library, though still popular as a research and reference library, has opened its doors further to act as an outstanding venue for conferences, public lectures, exhibitions, concerts, book launches, photo shoots, filming and civil wedding ceremonies. This contributed to the increase in general visitors to the library. Nevertheless, the National Library together with the National Bibliographic Office, which is now responsible for the legal deposit, continuously strive to enrich the national collection with works about Malta or written by Maltese authors published both nationally and abroad. Moreover, every effort is also made to identify foreign publications concerning the Order of St John and/or other chivalric orders, or other publications relating to libraries, archives or others of a historical nature which are deemed to be useful as secondary sources to library researchers. The National Library also seeks to acquire rare books or other items such as maps from sources both in Malta and overseas. To this end, in 2018, the National Library managed to acquire a rare manuscript map of the Maltese islands, c. 1750, showing the city of Valletta with its fortifications, as well as the towns, villages, churches and forts dotting the islands; and two views — one of Valletta and the suburb of Floriana, c. 1790 — and the other of Ricasoli, Birgu and Senglea, c. 1790.

During 2018, the National Bibliographic Office started operating from its new premises in Floriana. This move gave this Office its identity and is now able to manage and coordinate its services under one roof. The National Bibliographic Office is being established as the authoritative source for cataloguing standards in Malta and receives two copies of all publications published under the jurisdiction of Malta. Additionally, the NBO creates bibliographic records of this material submitted under legal deposit and publishes them within the National Bibliography of Malta. Moreover, this Office creates metadata for the National Library's digitised material and since 2017, it has taken up the role of European Aggregator.

On the other hand, the public libraries' performance indicators continued to increase positively. There were 6,266 new members for 2018 — an increase of 22.4 per cent over 2017. Moreover, the circulation statistics have reached 1022,346 loans, an increase of 12.2 per cent over the preceding year. eBooks contributed to this increase, reaching 8,200 loans from 4,521, a substantial increase of 81.4 per cent. This was mainly attributable to the upgrade in the libraries' collection both through Malta Libraries' own allocated book fund as well as through donations from other organisations; and also, to the increase in educational activities held in several public libraries.

These positive results were only possible through effective short- and long-term strategies constructed by Malta Libraries' management as well as the constant support and motivation of the entity's employees who on several occasions had to go out of their way to reach our goals.

# NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MALTA



**Maroma Camilleri**

*Deputy Librarian - National Library of Malta*

The role of the Deputy Librarian National Library combines two distinct functions:

Internal, i.e. coordinating the work of the various sections within his/her responsibility and organising monthly meetings with the respective heads in order to discuss issues raised by the staff, besides overseeing the day-to-day business related to the running of the respective sections, these being: Readers' Services, Acquisitions, Conservation Unit, Digitisation Studio and National Library Gozo.

External, i.e. reaching out to persons or entities outside the National Library. This translates into such activities as: coordinating public lectures; editing National Library publications; cooperating with other academic institutions vis-a-vis participation in European projects; organising exhibitions on site and collaborating with other entities in the case of exhibitions set up in other venues; managing the internships of students and liaising with academic or tourist bodies regarding curated visits to the National Library.

# NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MALTA

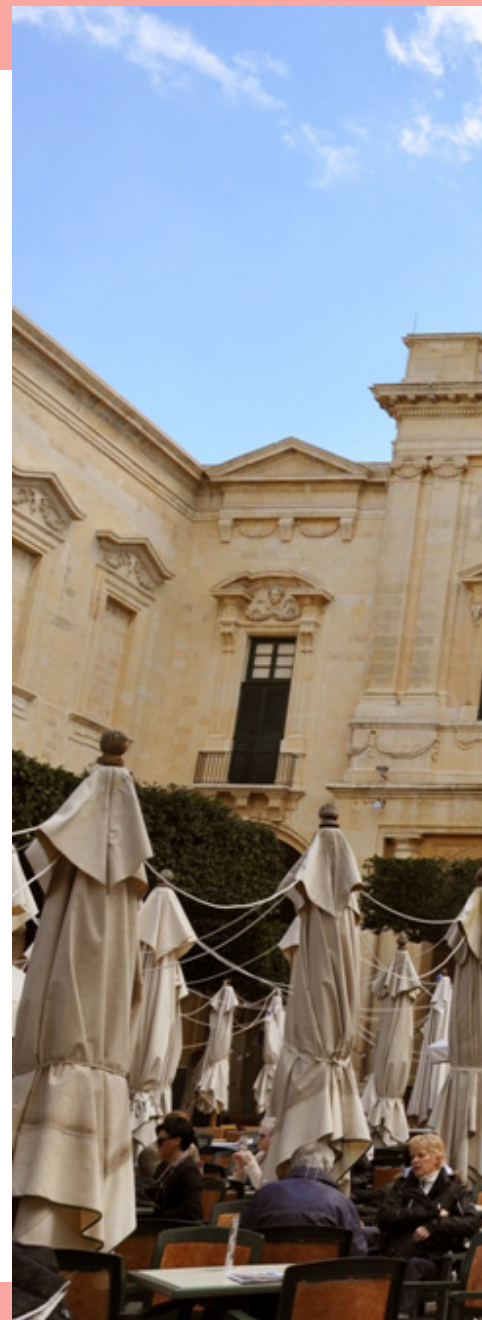


# READERS' SERVICES

The Readers' Services Unit is the public face of the National Library of Malta (NLM) constituting the hub of the library's primary mission as a centre for academic study and research. Two qualified assistant librarians and a library assistant man the front desk. Before opening hours, they shelve the material delivered to researchers the previous day. Once the doors open to the public from Monday to Saturday at 08:15 am, they cordially greet both regular clients and newcomers and do their utmost to guide all the users to consulting the appropriate material pertinent to their subject of research. They also connect people. Notwithstanding the silence that generally pervades the Reading Room, it is here that views are exchanged, acquaintances are made, friendships are formed and exciting research discoveries communicated. Scholars, students and the general public, including some very seasoned ones, come personally to conduct their research

or to browse the local daily newspapers. Those who consult original archival or manuscript material or rare books are allowed to do so after having produced a letter of presentation from a recognised academic body.

But the function of the Readers' Services Unit does not stop there. The staff welcome visitors and conduct tours for specialised groups interested in particular subjects. They also handle queries which reach the library via email or social media such as Facebook. Dealing with such queries sometimes entails some research which the librarians conduct in between serving patrons. A novelty introduced during the past year was opening the library until 4:00pm every third Saturday of the month. The move was greatly welcomed by researchers who make the best use of the extra hours offered to them.







# REQUESTS

During 2018, the library received a total of 4,244 researchers, an average of 14 per day and a 10% drop from last year's 4,660. The number of items requested in the Reading Room amounted to 6,888, a 3% increase over last year's total of 6,694, an average of 23 per day and 2 items per user. Requests reached their peak in April with a total of 807 items, an average of 34 per day of opening during that month. The majority of users consulted newspaper material with a total of 4,100 requests.

Consultation of Melitensia items remained significant with 1,318 requests, followed by the Archives of the Order of Malta with 896 items. The Library Manuscript collection drew a total of 316 requests while the Treasury record group received 146 requests. The Adami collection registered a total of 89 requests while the Univ. documents occupy the usual last position with scholars making only 23 requests for consultation.

## REQUESTED ITEMS 2018

	AOM	TREAS.	UNIV.	AD	LIBR. MSS	MELIT.	N/PAPERS	TOTAL
JAN	82	7	2	13	28	89	294	515
FEB	136	11	2	2	30	125	315	621
MARCH	106	4	2	7	21	128	299	567
APRIL	69	42	2	7	39	211	438	807
MAY	94	5	2	5	15	104	366	591
JUNE	29	13	2	12	18	143	259	476
JULY	35	13	2	3	14	75	282	424
AUG.	42	4	1	3	38	53	335	477
SEPT.	41	8	2	10	10	86	356	513
OCT.	125	8	2	8	34	107	448	732
NOV.	107	27	2	15	21	113	353	638
DEC.	30	4	2	4	48	84	355	527
TOTAL	896	146	23	89	316	1318	4100	6888

# QUERIES

During 2018, the National Library received a record 556 requests, just over half of which (272) came from Malta. Others were submitted mainly by Italian (89), French (60) and British (27) and US (25) scholars, students or the general public. Emails reached

the library from distant countries such as Iceland and Puerto Rico. The majority requested information from the library collections, mostly from newspapers, books and the Archives of the Order. Requested images were sent via WeTransfer or email.

## QUERIES 2018

1 ARGENTINA	6 AUSTRALIA	2 AUSTRIA	1 BELGIUM	2 BULGARIA	1 CANADA	1 CZECH REP.	3 CYPRUS
60 FRANCE	8 GERMANY	1 GREECE	4 HUNGARY	1 ICELAND	6 IRELAND	89 ITALY	1 JAPAN
1 LEBANON	272 MALTA	2 MEXICO	1 MONTE- NEGRO	2 NORWAY	2 NETHER- LANDS	3 POLAND	13 PORTUGAL
1 PUERTO RICO	4 RUSSIA	13 SPAIN	1 SWITZER- LAND	2 TURKEY	27 UK	25 US	556 TOTAL

# ACQUISITIONS

One of the principal raisons d'être of the National Library previously consisted of its mission to collect the national imprint. Since the institution of the National Bibliographic Office, also within Malta Libraries, the collection and preservation of the legal deposit copies are no longer the remit of the National Library. However, that does not mean that the National Library has divested itself of the responsibility of providing the public with the latest works published in Malta. By working hand in hand with the National Bibliographic Office, the National Library procures the lists of such works and purchases second copies which are kept on the premises in order to be consulted by the public.

- €4,678.64 were spent on the purchase of extra copies of books deposited at the National Bibliographic Office by way of legal deposit.
- €1,200.69 were spent on the purchase of foreign publications relating to Malta or historical or library-related topics.
- 30 Melitensia books were purchased from local private sources for €35 and €120 respectively.
- 7 albums of old photos of Malta containing 12 photos each, as well as 111 loose photos of Malta and three Library postcards were acquired via Ebay.

Moreover, the National Library seeks to further enrich the national collection with works about Malta or written by Maltese authors and published abroad. Every effort is also made to identify foreign publications concerning the Order of St John and/or other chivalric orders, or other publications relating to libraries, archives or others of a historical nature which are deemed to be useful as secondary sources to library researchers. The acquisition of rare and precious items is also a significant way of enriching the collection. To this end, the NLM is proactive in liaising with booksellers and antiquarians in order to acquire rare books or other items such as maps from such sources both in Malta and overseas.

- 22 books were presented by the Ambassador of Belarus during his visit to the NLM.
- 5 copies of #1917Live were presented by the Ambassador of the Russian Federation during his visit to the NLM.
- There were several donations of books of foreign publications, some based on research conducted at NLM.



### Purchases from overseas antiquarian bookshops:

**March 2018:** purchase of one map and two views of Malta from Librairie Le Bail, Paris, for €15,000.

- A rare manuscript map of the islands of Malta, Gozo and Comino, unsigned, c. 1750, showing the city of Valletta with its fortifications, as well as the towns, villages, churches and forts dotting the islands.
- A south-east view of the city of Valletta and the suburb of Floriana, c. 1790, drawn in ink and watercolour and showing the view of the city of Valletta from the Birgu side.
- A view of Ricasoli, Birgu and Senglea, c. 1790, showing the town of Kalkara from the Valletta side. In the foreground is the harbour replete with galleys and smaller vessels.



October 2018:

Purchase of one Ortelius map from Jonathan Potter, UK, for €1005.84, including postage.

This map entitled ‘*Insularum Aliquot Maris Mediterranei Descriptio*’ (Antwerp, 1570) is a decorative composite map

of six Mediterranean islands by Abraham Ortelius, one of the best known 16th-century mapmakers. Based upon maps by Lafreri and Jean Quintin, the map of Malta forms part of what is considered as the first modern Atlas of the World, namely Ortelius’ *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*.

Purchases by auction:

May 2018:

*Korte deductie, over de ghelegentheyte Van De Ridderlycke Orden, van St. Iohan van Ierusalem* (Haarlem, 1650) from the US for €378.30, including shipping and commission.

*e castigos, que tiverao os complices della. Escrita por hum Cavalleiro Maltez* (Lisbon, 1750) from Madrid for €700, including premium, shipping and commission.

This is an account in Portuguese of the episode of the subject of the slaves’ revolt led by Mustafa Baxa against the Order of St John in 1749.

July 2018:

*Relacao Exacta Verdadeira da Conjuraçao, que Mostafa Baxa de Rhodes intentou fazer na Ilha de Malta, com os escravos mahometanos, para se fazerem senhores della, em 29 de Junho de 1749. E das circunstancias com que foy descuberta,*

November 2018:

*A. von Winderfeld, Geschichte des Ritterlichen Ordens St. Johannis* (Berlin, 1859) from the US for €296.60 including premium, shipping, surcharge and transaction charge.

This 900-page history of the Order of St John contains coloured lithographs and engravings showing decorative costumes, views, maps of Valletta and Malta, and a plan of Jerusalem.

ITEM	NUMBER	COST
2018 local publications	184	€4,679
Melitensia items from local sources	32	€155
Foreign publications	20	€1,201
From antiquarians overseas	4	€16,006
From auctions overseas	3	€1,374
Via Ebay	198	€923



'Insularum Aliquot Maris Mediterranei Descriptio' (Antwerp, 1570)



# CONSERVATION UNIT

The Conservation Unit may be considered to be the clinic of the National Library. Here the dedicated staff with over 30 years' experience to their credit professionally restore and bring to life books, newspapers and manuscripts that would have otherwise been doomed to a fate of decay and deterioration. This is caused by the unfavourable environmental conditions generated mostly by dust and humidity. The complex and painstaking restoration work, using the latest methods, entails unstitching of volumes, page-by-page repair sometimes with the use of the leaf-casting machine, restitching and restoration of the cover. This year, the unit embarked on a proactive programme of prevention and conservation. In order to combat as much as possible the breeding of insects within the volumes, insect screens have been installed in the windows and doors of storage deposits, thus enabling air to flow in without allowing insects to enter from the exterior. Insect traps have also been placed on the shelves.

At the same time, an ambitious programme of fumigation was undertaken with the collaboration of Salvarti Co. Ltd, whereby metres of volumes both from the Melitensia collection as well as from the archives have already been disinfested. The process will continue over the next few years until the entire library has been fumigated. The Conservation Unit also binds newspapers into volumes by months or years, as the case may be. Apart from the above, the team mounts exhibitions using professional methods and ensures that standards are adhered to in the Reading Room both by staff and researchers when handling library material, such as using archival cushions, acid-free book markers and pencils rather than pens. The precious input of two enthusiastic volunteers, Barbara and Felix, help in no small way in the work of the Conservation Unit. These assist by cleaning books in a professional manner while at the same time performing a stocktaking exercise.



## Conservation Unit 2018

Restoration of 83 manuscripts

Repairs and rebinding of 140 Melitensia books

Binding of 108 daily newspapers

Restoration of 24 volumes of newspapers

Hard binding of 153 periodicals

Making of 120 preservation boxes for artefacts

Cleaning and restoration of 115 volumes of bibles for exhibition

Cleaning and restoration of 4 plans

Boxing of 325 British period plans

Mounting of 3 exhibitions

Placement of 20 students

Cleaning and fumigation of 839 mtr of books

Fumigation of 406 mtr of wooden shelving, furniture and wooden showcases

## Others

Delivery of office furniture and surplus materials from the National Library to Wasteserve

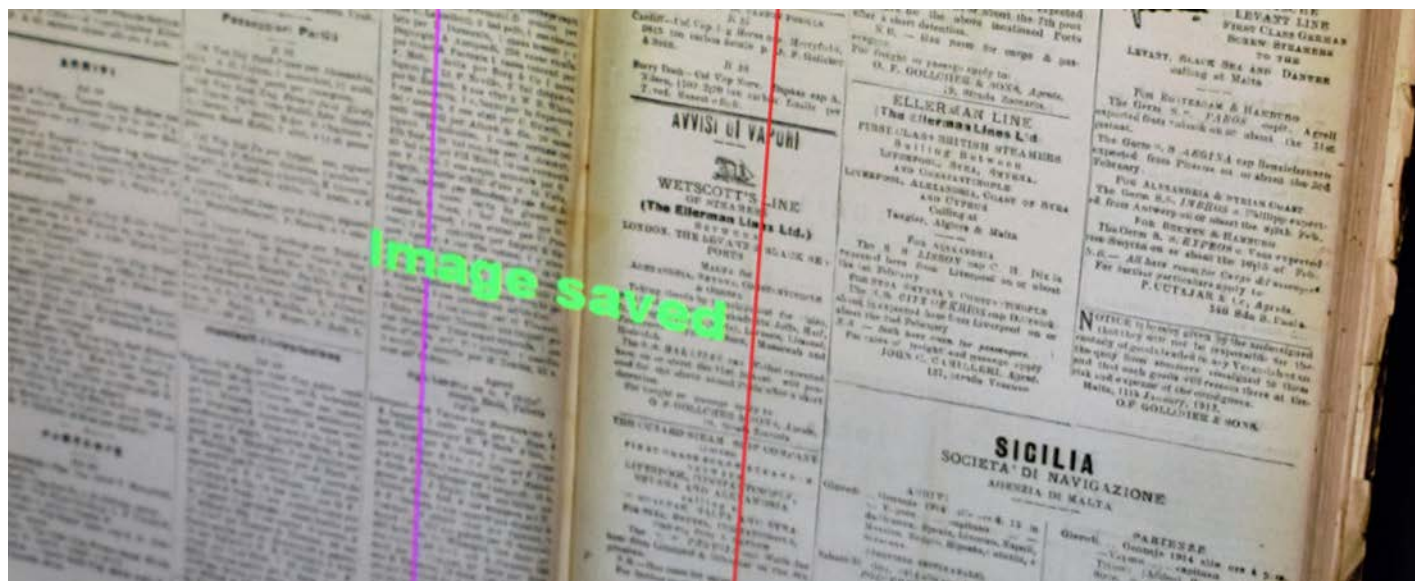
Creation of powerpoint presentation on restoration process shown during Book Festival



# DIGITISATION

The Digitisation Studio, successor of the Microfilming Unit, was set up in 2012 when the National Library's digitisation project kicked off following the purchase of equipment by means of a project for which the library had succeeded in procuring European Regional Development Funds (ERDF) in 2008. Like the microfilming project before it, the aim was to host a non-paper repository of National Library holdings, in this case in digital format. The implementation of the digitisation project was fraught with difficulties and problems and even the portal DigiVault which was created to upload the images on-line had to be temporarily suspended in April 2018. Since then, the work of the Digitisation Studio focused mainly on a Digitisation-on-Demand policy whereby digitisation was carried out according to researchers' requests.

The material digitised on demand was added to the Library's permanent digital collection to be made freely accessible for subsequent users once DigiVault is back in operation. Many Library Manuscripts were digitised as per the users' requests, as well as a number of AOM and Treasury volumes, besides publications, newspapers, maps and plans. The digitisation process would not be complete without the input of teleworkers who performed editing work by cropping and downsizing the images and creating PDFs. The input of students in the scanning process in the studio was also invaluable.



## Digitization Studio 2018

*Malta Government Gazette* 1967-1971

*Il-Malti* 1928-1949, 1977-1984, 1993-1999

*Lloyd Maltese* 1852-1917

*Mogħdija taż-Żmien* 1901-1902

AOM 283

AOM 324

AOM 340

AOM 342

AOM 345-356

AOM 375

AOM 383

AOM 413

AOM 431

AOM 931

AOM 1219

AOM 5934

AOM 5951

AOM 5980

AOM 6073

AOM 6079-6081

AOM 6432

AOM 6524

AOM 6560

Treas. A 25

Treas. A 45 vols. I, II

Treas. B 23

Treas. B 289

Treas. B 291

Treas. B 301-302

Treas. B 310-311

Libr. Cod. VI, VII, VIII

Libr. MS 58-291

Libr. MS 1208

Libr. MS 1364

*Storia degli Ordini Monastici* vol. 5

*Mogħdija taż-Żmien* 1899-1905

*L-Ewkaristija* 1906-1919

*L-Ewkaristija* 1925-1940

De Rohan, *Diritto Municipale* vols 1, II

M.A. Borg, *Teatro in Vernacolo*

*Statuta Hospitalis Hierusalem*

*Raccolta di Piante* vols VI, VII

Plans of Valletta and Harbours

*Bilderbogenserie der Malta*

# THE NATIONAL LIBRARY (GOZO)

National Library (Gozo) or NLG has the two-fold mission of collecting the national imprint by way of legal deposit and making it accessible to the public. Situated in the Victoria Primary School, it occupies the first floor of the school, together with the National Archives Gozo section, and is housed in an elegant hall similar to the Reading Room of the National Library of Malta, albeit on a smaller scale. It is frequented mostly by students and those wishing to make use of the internet service provided by the library. The library is active in organising activities on its premises, such as literary evenings, book launches and exhibitions. Following the demise of the author and poet Anton F. Attard in 2018, a special literary evening was organised to commemorate him in collaboration with the Circolo Gozitano.

The National Library (Gozo) also welcomes visits by students from both primary and secondary schools and conducts hands-on sessions in order to train them in conducting research to enhance

their projects and also to help them discover the pleasure of reading and learning. The library does its best to promote its services and activities by ensuring its visibility on television, radio, newspapers and social media.

During 2018, 2,034 researchers availed themselves of the services provided in the Reading Room and 2,591 items were requested for consultation. The majority viewed newspapers (805), but a good number of Melitensia books (1,018) and periodicals (219) were also requested. Eight manuscripts and six reference books were viewed as well as 535 sundry items, including government publications, past examination papers and school project material.

Furthermore, a total of 2,617 pages of photocopies were made for 424 clients and all this netted the sum of €806.70. A total of 307 persons made use of internet services at the National Library (Gozo).

## Requested Items NLG 2018

805	1018	219	8	6	535	2591
N/PAPERS	MELITENSIA	PERIODICALS	MSS	REF. BOOKS	MISC.	TOTAL



# VISITS

During opening hours, the library welcomes visitors who drop in to view the Reading Room and the display in the showcases. Access is granted against the presentation of an ID card or other document of identification

During 2018, the library received 15,436 visitors, a 2% increase from last year and an average of 52 per day. The majority of visitors predictably hailed from European countries, i.e. France,

Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK, besides Malta. However, visitors from Belgium, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal and Austria came in fairly large numbers too. Non-European visitors mainly hailed from the US, Canada, Australia and Japan. Special visits were requested by Exclusively Malta, an agency which organises curated, tailor-made visits for visitors with a particular interest in the library holdings.

## VISITS 2018

2	2	2	17	4	213	237	1
ALBANIA	ALGERIA	ANDORRA	ARGENTINA	ARMENIA	AUSTRALIA	AUSTRIA	AZER-BAIJAN
9	683	3	94	88	284	8	64
BELARUS	BELGIUM	BOSNIA	BRAZIL	BULGARIA	CANADA	CHILE	CHINA
29	40	100	12	104	3	32	103
COLOMBIA	CROATIA	CZECH REP.	CYPRUS	DENMARK	EGYPT	ESTONIA	FINLAND
2098	2	1623	119	2	108	8	23
FRANCE	GEORGIA	GERMANY	GREECE	HONDURAS	HUNGARY	ICELAND	INDIA

2	1	118	73	1544	182	3	6
IRAN	IRAQ	IRELAND	ISRAEL	ITALY	JAPAN	JORDAN	KOSOVO
1	54	2	2	83	11	19	1937
KUWAIT	LATVIA	LEBANON	LIBYA	LITHUANIA	LUXEM- BOURG	MALAYSIA	MALTA
34	3	4	7	404	7	2	45
MEXICO	MOLDOVA	MONTE- NEGRO	MOROCCO	NETHER- LANDS	NEW ZEALAND	NIGERIA	NORWAY
2	2	1	3	365	271	30	197
OMAN	PANAMA	PERU	PHILIPPINES	POLAND	PORTUGAL	REP. OF MACEDONIA	ROMANIA
126	6	43	7	38	90	16	66
RUSSIA	SAUDI ARABIA	SERBIA	SINGAPORE	SLOVAKIA	SLOVENIA	SOUTH AFRICA	SOUTH KOREA
1239	2	155	144	6	4	71	1227
SPAIN	SRI LANKA	SWEDEN	SWITZER- LAND	THAILAND	TUNISIA	TURKEY	UK
45	607	8	4	15,436			
UKRAINE	US	VENEZUELA	VIETNAM	TOTAL			

The library also received high-profile visitors as well as University students or other associations, as follows:

- 10th January – MA History students with Dr Emmanuel Buttigieg
- 16th January – H.E. Mr Aleksandr Guryanov, Ambassador of Belarus
- 22nd March – Geography students from St John University, York, UK
- 28th March – two Erasmus students conducting internships at the National Archives
- 11th April – group from Siggiewi Active Ageing Centre
- 23rd April – Hungarian librarian, Mr Gabor Mandy
- 9th July - H.E. Mr Shri M.J. Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs of the Republic of India
- 11th July - H.E. Mr Vladimir Malygin, Ambassador of the Russian Federation (*seen below*)
- 25th September – 50 members from ISBN and ISMN delegations
- 31st October – Mr Andrzej from Lezno Library, Poland, Dr Ptazcek and Mr Filip
- 31st October – Law students with Dr Joan Abela
- 5th November – group of ex-parliamentarians from Canada
- 9th November – MA Archaeology students with Mr Liam Gauci
- 13th November – DLIAS students with Prof. William Zammit
- 16th November – Dott. Massimo Sarti, Director of Italian Cultural Institute
- 17th November – BA Maltese students with Dr Olvin Vella



# PUBLIC LECTURES

The idea of organising a theme-based series of public lectures was aimed at projecting the National Library as the centre of knowledge and learning. The series of eight lectures was coordinated and organised with Mevrick Spiteri on the theme of Urban Landscapes and entitled: **Cities, Harbours and Artefacts: transformations of an early modern landscape**. The lectures were planned to span the period October 2018 – May 2019 and treated a number of different topics related to the general theme.

Apart from Mevrick Spiteri himself, six experts in the field were identified and contacted. The lectures held so far were very well attended. The papers delivered during the lectures will be published in a volume of collected essays planned for November 2019.




National Library of Malta - Valletta  
18:30 // Free Admission

**CITIES, HARBOURS AND ARTEFACTS:**  
transformations of an  
early modern landscape

 **National Library of Malta**  
Public Lectures Series 2018-2019  
**URBAN LANDSCAPES**

Coordinated by Mevrick Spiteri and Mariana Camilleri

30/11/18 The Building of a New City - Valletta // Prof. Claude Bussell  
17/12/18 Studying Genoa in Early Modern Malta - Archival and Archaeological Sources // Nathaniel Cutajar  
30/01/19 Properties of the Order of St. John - Structural Transformations in Valletta's Houses // Mevrick Spiteri  
28/02/19 Maritime Spaces - Human Choices // Prof. Timmy Gorman  
26/03/19 Early Sales of Plots of Land in Valletta // Prof. Stanley Fiorini  
24/04/19 Fortress Aesthetics and its Silent Poetry - The Maltese Fortified Landscape and its Representation in Art // Dr. Stephen C. Spiteri  
29/05/19 Of Markets and Making Puts - Commercial Spaces in Early Modern Malta // Christian Micallef  
28/06/19 Malta's Harbour in 1798 - The Transformation of a New Urban Landscape // Mevrick Spiteri



However, the National Library also hosted several other lectures in collaboration with other entities in 2018, such as the literary evening put up by students reading for a Diploma in Maltese Literature in collaboration with the Dipartiment tal-Malti, Università ta' Malta entitled **Inqeghidlek f'Idek Poeżija** on October 25th.

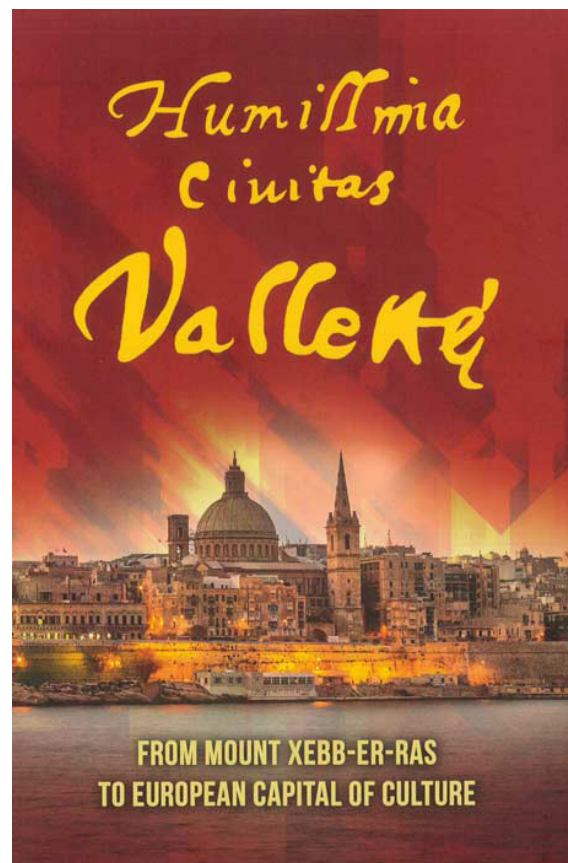
Further public lectures were held in October by the **European Graduate School**. The aim of this series of public lectures offered by the School's Division of Philosophy, Art and Critical

Thought is to bring the latest reflections by leading philosophers, critical theorists, artists and practitioners working in the fields of philosophy, higher education, the arts, the media or other cultural sectors to the interested public.

**Plato and the Arts** was an evening lecture organised by the Malta Classics Association and delivered by Professor Joe Friggieri on the 26th of October.

## PUBLICATIONS

To coincide with Valletta European Capital of Culture 2018, Malta Libraries and Heritage Malta published a volume of collected essays on the theme of Valletta: *Humillima Civitas Vallettae: from Mount Xebb-er-ras to European Capital of Culture*. The volume consisted of 32 papers by Maltese scholars who dealt with diverse aspects of Valletta, ranging from Francesco Laparelli's original plans to Valletta as a smart city. The book was published during the Malta Book Festival in November. During the year, the National Library also published a booklet containing the rules and regulations of the Reading Room for consultation by users.





# BOOK LAUNCHES

In September the National Library of Malta provided the perfect location for the launch of *A Materialist Review of Maltese History - 1919-1979* by Mark Camilleri. On this occasion important documents from its collections were displayed covering 60 years of Maltese political history such as the Self Government Constitution of 1921, King George VI's letter awarding Malta the George Cross and the Constitution of 1947 which granted the Women's Vote among others.

In November this was followed by the book launch and book signing of Alfred Sant's *L-Ewwel Weraq Tal-Bajtar*.

On March 16th the book *Giuseppe De Brincat – a Gozitan Wine Merchant* by Dr Michael Refalo was launched at the National Library of Gozo and an exhibition was also set up related to Giuseppe De Brincat for the occasion.

# NETWORKING WITH SCHOOLS

The concept of linking exhibits of the National Library's collections to school projects is no longer new. In the year under review, 382 Grade 10 students participated in workshops related to the exhibition **Mixjet il-Malti**, held jointly for the third year running, by the Maltese department within the National Curriculum Centre and the National Library. Students from eight state colleges and two private secondary schools attended this year. This activity has also been extended to Junior College students and undergraduates specialising in the Maltese language.

64 students taking Italian and History as an option from 16 state and private schools participated in the **Caccia al Tesoro alla Valletta** project organised by the Italian and History Departments within the National Curriculum Centre. The treasure hunt was related to

Italian and historical items in the National Library collections.

The National Library continued to welcome a steady flow of students all year round, though the weeks leading up to **World Book Day** and **National Libraries Day** remain the most popular. 170 students from Hamrun Primary, Mosta Secondary, Verdala Secondary, San Andrea and Mikiel Anton Vassalli College Gozo benefited from orientation visits bringing the total number of students to 616. Our Outreach efforts are not after numbers. In the majority of cases the students who attend these workshops have never set foot in the National Library before. In exposing them to authentic publications or authors and poets they are studying the library fulfils its pivotal role in the educational sector.

# STUDENT INTERNSHIPS

During the year under review, a steady flow of students and volunteers continued to give their assistance at the National Library as part of their internship in Malta. Two Maltese Sixth Form students conducted their Systems of Knowledge placements at the library while 18 Erasmus students from Italy, France, Spain, Germany, Czech Republic and Romania also lent a helping hand to staff. The students were assigned tasks in the Digitisation Studio where they scanned books and newspapers thus speeding up the capturing phase of the digitisation process. They also assisted in the Conservation Unit where they learned the basic techniques in both bookbinding and restoration and were given particular books which they restored themselves. Some students also carried out supervision duties in the Reading Room.

The input of volunteers Mr Felix Rizzo and Ms Barbara Woodward in the book cleaning and relocation processes was vital to the Conservation Unit. Mr Joseph Schirò, book restorer and former Director of the Restoration Division within Heritage Malta, Bighi, continued to work on the map collections in the library collection by populating the database with the relative curatorial data. Between October and November, four retired persons from the United Kingdom and Cyprus performed voluntary work in the Conservation Unit.

## Volunteers

Karl Mizzi

### Systems of Knowledge (Reading Room & Conservation Unit)

Derika Frendo

Kleaven Caruana

### Digitisation Studio (DS) and Conservation Unit (CU)

Julie Gallet	8 January 2018	4 March 2018
Ilaria Villanova	5 March 2018	4 May 2018
Joanne Osterloh	9 April 2018	21 April 2018
Veronika Šulajová	9 April 2018	21 April 2018
Mujidat Jimoh	2 May 2018	30 June 2018
Michaela Skorzinski	7 May 2018	26 June 2018
Morgane Becheric	14 May 2018	13 July 2018
Pauline Duvigneau	14 May 2018	13 July 2018
Martina Papaiani	2 July 2018	30 July 2018
Redouane Bbayiar	2 July 2018	30 July 2018
Giuseppe Docimo	30 July 2018	28 September 2018

### DS Only

Eileen Cociu	20 August 2018	31 August 2018
Julia Gruschka	20 August 2018	14 September 2018
Charly Pollet	21 October 2018	21 December 2018
Cinzia Becciu	22 October 2018	22 December 2018

### CU Only

Diana Richter	7 May 2018	26 June 2018
Rebeca Alvarez	20 July 2018	14 September 2018
Volunteers from Cyprus	22 October 2018	21 November 2018

# EXHIBITIONS & CONFERENCES

Apart from the regular exhibition programme that the National Library organises on a particular theme or collection, it also accepts requests to hold exhibitions from individuals and institutions.

## **COST: REASSEMBLING THE REPUBLIC OF LETTERS**

This plenary session on the 1st of February brought together participants from 33 countries to analyse the results of the research carried out during the past four years and on this occasion a small exhibition was mounted on the theme of letter-writing and communication among the intellectual elites in early modern Europe. Among the items on display was official correspondence between the Grand Masters and European sovereigns as well as petitions by the local population to the Grand Masters, unofficial correspondence exchanged during particular periods in Maltese history, such as the Rising of the Priests of 1775, the end of the Order's rule and the arrival of the French in 1798 and the early British administration in Malta in 1800. The exhibition also included some examples of correspondence among the Maltese and foreign litterati of the late 18th century, the most notable Maltese being Gio. Francesco Agius de Soldanis and Ignazio Saverio Mifsud.



## **EX LIBRIS**

From 5th May till 2nd June, the National Library of Malta hosted this exhibition of metal objects by Marie Louise Kold, a Danish artist who works with the patination and etching of metals. Her works mainly consist of squares of bronze, copper or brass, patterned and coloured by immersion in acids, or by having their aging process speeded up through natural and chemical means. The exhibition of metallic works was interspersed with printed works relating to metallurgy from the NLM collection.



## **THE CYRILLIC ALPHABET: THE NEW ALPHABET IN THE EUROPEAN UNION**

In connection with the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the Bulgarian Embassy in Rome got in touch with the National Library of Malta through the ambassador H.E. Prof. Lino Bianco. The embassy organised an exhibition at the National Library dedicated to the Cyrillic Alphabet and History. The exhibition, which spanned from the 11th till the 30th of June, was a joint project of the Institute for Culture at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Centre for Slavo-Byzantine Studies "Ivan Dujcev" at



Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" and the Elena and Ivan Dujcevi Foundation.

Four 17th and 18th-century manuscripts in Cyrillic script and a number of publications were brought over expressly from Bulgaria and placed on display during the three-week exhibition. The National Library of Malta participated with the 16th-century Ostrog Psalter from the Library Manuscript collection (Libr. MS 470).

Bulgarian ambassador H.E. Mr Marin Raykov attended the inauguration ceremony which was held on 11 June under the auspices of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion, Hon. Carmelo Abela. At the end of the ceremony, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the National Library of Malta and the National Library of Bulgaria regarding areas of cooperation such as the exchange of documents and of library specialists, cooperation in the field of librarianship, bibliography, scientific information, and the exchange of exhibitions as well as participation in joint projects.



### CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE MALTA MODEL UNITED NATIONS SOCIETY's 4th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

On the 16th of September the National Library welcomed 80 Maltese and foreign delegates. The Malta Model United Nations Society is a locally registered voluntary organisation run entirely by youths and young adults whose primary aim is to foster debate, negotiation and professional skills within the context of competitive simulations of the United Nations.

### 'ARTE E COMMITTENZA' ARTOUR-O EXHIBITION & CONFERENCE

In May 2018, the Senior Management of Malta Libraries was contacted by Prof. Tiziana Leopizzi, an architect by profession who co-founded an association which organises travelling artistic exhibitions, hence ARTOUR-O, as well as cultural events. The National Library was selected as one of the venues in Malta to host such an exhibition consisting of interesting installations set up in the library staircase and in the Reading Room.

The event was inaugurated on 22 November by Prof. Leopizzi and the Deputy Librarian on behalf of Malta Libraries and was attended by a few Maltese and Italian guests, among them Dott. Massimo Sarti, Director of Italian Institute of Culture. The opening was followed by a seminar on the theme of Arts and Patronage with Ms Lorraine Lewis and Prof. Simon Mercieca from the University of Malta.



In 2018, the National Library also hosted:

An exhibition of art works by final-year degree students from the MCAST: Institute for the Creative Arts in June.

A press release about budgetary measures given by the Minister for European Affairs & Equality, Dr Helena Dalli and Parliamentary

Secretary for reforms, citizenship & simplification of administration processes, Ms Julia Farrugia Portelli in November.

This year's conference by European Law Students' Association Malta commemorating ELSA Day; a conference which centred around 'The Right to Education' – also in November.

# PARTICIPATION IN EXHIBITIONS HELD IN OTHER VENUES

## **CITTADELLA IN 2D organised by the Ministry for Gozo at the Cittadella Visitors Centre, Victoria, Gozo**

For the exhibition which took place from 7th April till 30th June, three items were requested from the National Library of Malta, i.e. the drawing of the Cittadella by Padre Luigi Bartolo from Libr. MS 145, the plan of the Cittadella proposed fortifications by Maurizio Valperga from AOM 6554, and the siege map showing the Cittadella from the Matteo Perez d'Aleccio album of Great Siege engravings. For the occasion, the National Library (Gozo) lent the 1536 publication by Jean Quintin d'Autun (Quintinus), *Insulae Melitae Descriptio*.

## **THE SCHRANZ ARTISTS' FAMILY, organised by Heritage Malta at Fort St Elmo, Valletta**

The exhibition (9 March – 17 July) was organised to celebrate the bicentenary since Anton Schranz the elder arrived in Malta in 1818. The National Library participated with five works from the Melitensia collection, among them the Schranz album and travelogues by English visitors to Malta in the 19th century.

## **100 SENA L'ALPINO organised by Wirt iż-Żejtun at the BOV premises, Żejtun**

The National Library lent three newspapers to be displayed in this exhibition (19-30 September), namely *The Malta Herald*, January-December 1918, *Malta Taghna* 1917-1918 and the *Daily Malta Chronicle*, April-June 1918.

## **CRAC DES CHEVALIERS organised at the Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine, Paris, France**

During 2018, the National Library of Malta participated in an exhibition held in Paris between the 13th of September 2018 till the 14th of January 2019 on the theme of the Crac des Chevaliers, the Crusader castle in Syria. The item flown overseas for the occasion was the 12th-century charter from the Archives of the Order of Malta documenting the donation of the Crac des Chevaliers to the Knights Hospitaller in 1142 (AOM 41 no 1). Transpak Overseas Removals Limited handled the packing and transport of the item from Malta to the exhibition venue in Paris, accompanied by a courier from the National Library.

# NATIONAL EVENTS

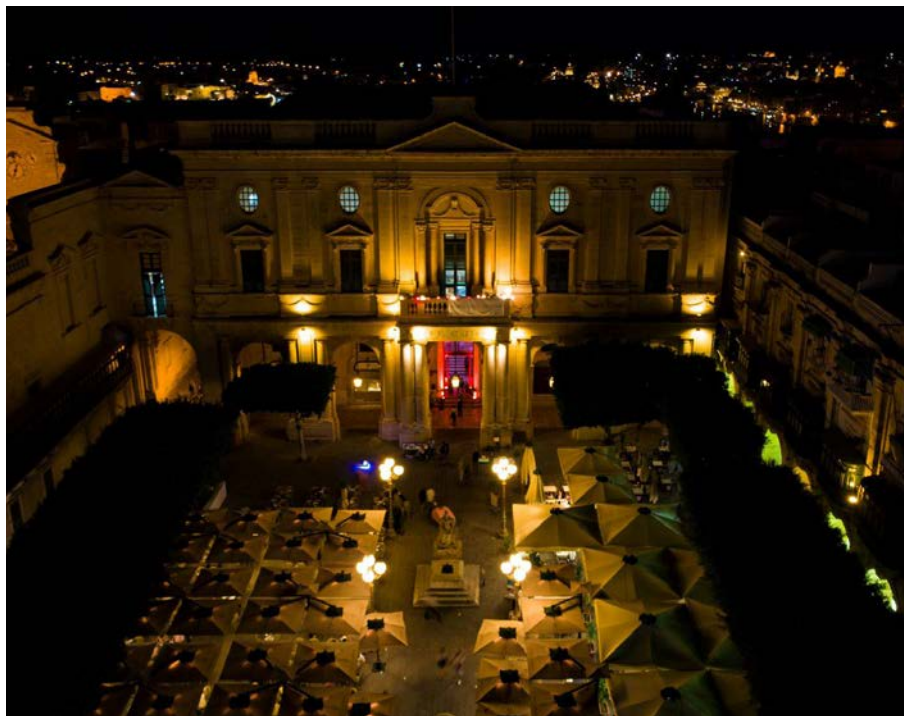
2018 saw the National Library of Malta participate, as it had in previous years, in national events. For the fourth year running the acoustic main hall of the National Library lent itself to two lunchtime concerts as part of the **Valletta International Baroque Festival**. Les Contre-Sujets Ensemble performed works by German composers while Musica Antiqua Latina played 'The Dark Side of the Goldberg Variations'.

On **Notte Bianca** the National Library hosted a Magic Night, an ongoing performance by eight magicians engaging both young and old that came into the National Library.

On April 2nd, in recognition of United Nations World Autism Awareness Day, Malta Libraries joined the global **Light It Up Blue Campaign** in shining a blue light on the National Library's façade sending a message of hope and inclusion to those with autism.



Poster for Le Crac des Chevaliers



The National Library during Notte Bianca

# MEDIA COVERAGE

In the year under review the National Library has considerably widened its access to its collections not only to researchers and visitors, but also to the public. The National Library's holdings attracted the interest of TV producers of the documentary series **Valletta – Ilwien ta' Belt, Deheb il-Karta, Ras 'Imb Ras, Maltarti,**

**Meander** and the **Eurovision Song Festival 2018**. This interest was not limited to local TV only. The National Library also featured on the German TV channel ZDF and the French TV programme **Bon Baisers d'Europe**.



# PUBLIC LIBRARIES NETWORK



**Margaret Zammit***Deputy Librarian – 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.

For the public libraries' network, 2018 was intensive and rewarding on a number of fronts. Apart from the increase in book loans and in new members, one of the primary targets for 2018 was that of initiating Primary School Libraries migration to public community libraries, where the migration of

ten primary school libraries to V-smart and the actual physical migration of collections was amalgamated within the existing public library collection. The aim of this initiative is for libraries to cater for the whole community, reading levels and educational backgrounds. There was also an increase in the opening hours of a number of libraries to cater solely for the school children. Another project was the migration of eight Middle School Libraries to Malta Libraries' Library Information System to simplify support and standardise the library services. This was a joint venture with the National Literacy Agency.





# PUBLIC LIBRARIES' NETWORK

For the first time, a Local Councils' libraries fund scheme in collaboration with the Local Government Department was initiated to cater for the refurbishment of libraries. The aim of this initiative is to include more facilities and make the libraries more accessible to the public. 42 Local Councils applied for these funds and invested mainly in the installation of A/Cs and Wi-Fi in public libraries. Additionally, a new agreement was drafted with the Xghajra Local Council to add a new library to the Public Libraries' network, which is to open in 2019.

Initial preparations for the refurbishment of the Adult Library at the CPL started. An architect and an electrical engineer were appointed to compile a comprehensive plan for the library to be technology enabled, more adaptable to the changing needs of today's users, easier to navigate and to have a modern and consistent design and layout, with the re-installation of electricity and modern light fittings. Extensive weeding of the present collection was carried out and the library moved temporarily to a new location within the same building. Other projects included the refurbishment of new premises within the Rabat Primary School to move the Rabat Regional Library from its current premises. Access ramp plans to make the library more accessible were finalised and FTS will initiate works in the coming year. The Rabat Local Council was also roped in for support to acquire and install A/Cs.

Throughout the year, new measures were set to enable the libraries to better meet the needs of their clients, keep up to date with international developments on libraries and to increase literacy in Malta. From this year, therefore, students were able to use the same Malta Libraries

membership cards to borrow from both the public libraries and their school library. A new measure also enabled borrowers to temporarily renew their membership online without being blocked after 12 months' inactivity. This process allowed users to continue to benefit uninterruptedly from Malta Libraries' service. The facility of enrolling online and receiving the membership card at one's home address instead of having to collect it from a library was another measure which was introduced throughout the year to better meet clients' needs. Five members of staff were also given the opportunity to undertake official training on Assistive Technology to support clients with special requirements.

A new library was established at the CORRS within the Correctional Facilities. New books were bought from the Malta Libraries budget to cater for the needs of this community and the collection was integrated into the Malta Libraries Library and Information System. A good number of talking books were also recorded to be added to the collection. A new collection development for the Women's Wing has been initiated and will continue in the coming year. Cataloguing and classification works also continued on the collection housed at the President's Palace Library.

# READER SERVICES

During the year under review, the public libraries registered 6,266 new members, an increase of 22.4 percent over 2017. More than half of these new members were in the age group 0-18. The number of book loans has increased to 1,022,346, an increase of 12.2 per cent over the preceding year. eBooks contributed to this increase, reaching 8,200 loans from 4,521, a substantial increase of 81.4 per cent.

Other factors contributing to the overall increase in book loans may be 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.



6,266

NEW MEMBERS

22.4%

INCREASE



1,022,346

BOOK LOANS

12.2%

INCREASE



8,200

eBOOK LOANS

81.4%

INCREASE

# LIBRARY BOOK LOANS 2018

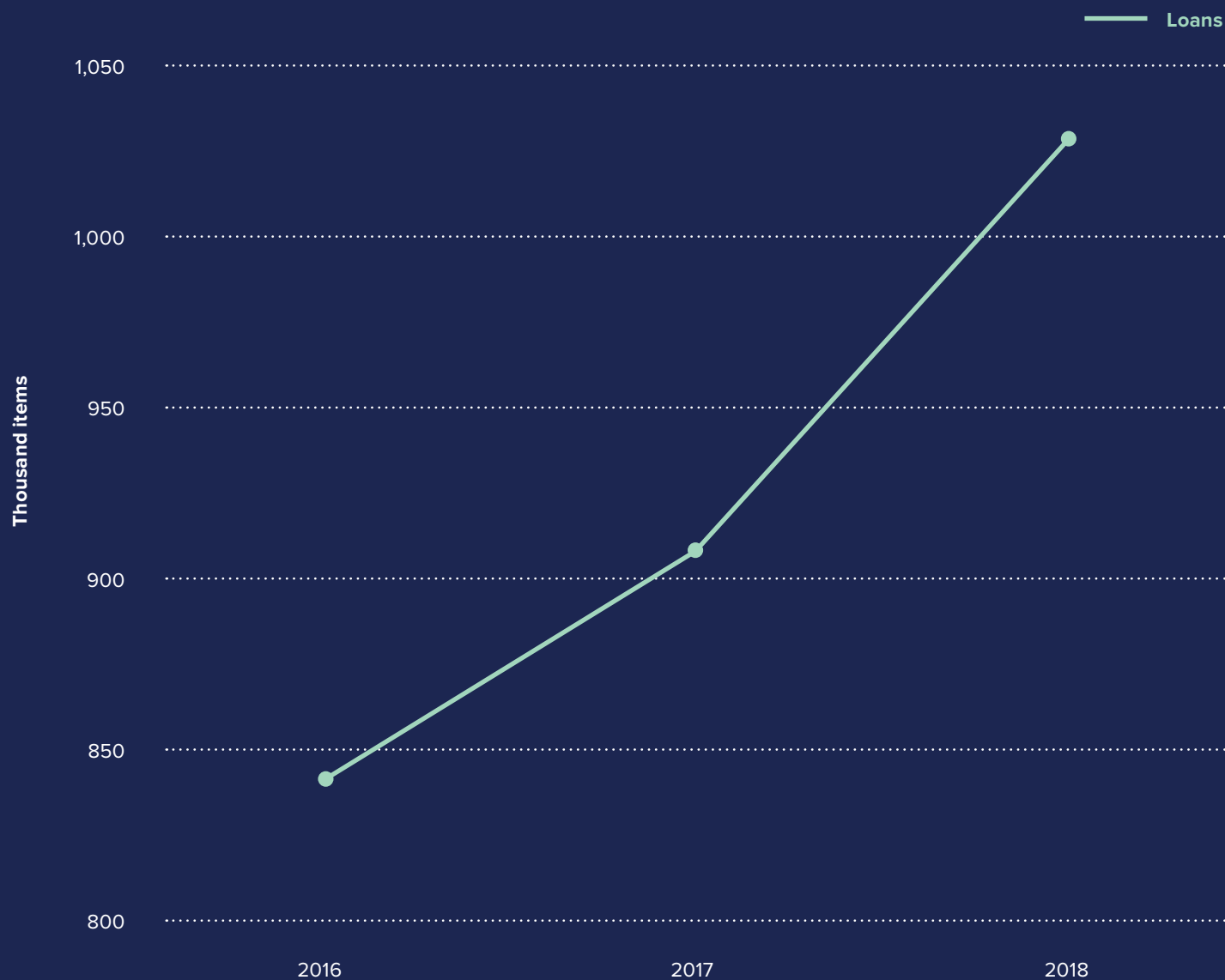


# NEW PUBLIC LIBRARY MEMBERS: 2018

Type of Membership	Number of members
<b>Adults - 18 and over</b>	
Adults <sup>1</sup>	1,946
Adults residing in Malta without Maltese citizenship <sup>1 &amp; 3</sup>	162
Adult foreign visitors <sup>1 &amp; 3</sup>	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,118</b>
<b>Juniors - under 18</b>	
0-12 years	3,880
13-17 years	94
17 years & under with additional adult lending rights <sup>2</sup>	16
0-12 years residing in Malta without Maltese citizenship <sup>3</sup>	106
13-17 years residing in Malta without Maltese citizenship <sup>3</sup>	4
Junior foreign visitors <sup>3</sup>	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,106</b>
<b>Others</b>	
Guests <sup>4</sup>	5
Staff members	5
Teachers	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,266</b>

<sup>1</sup>From 2014 all adults have additional junior lending rights  
<sup>2</sup>Require a written permit from a parent or guardian  
<sup>3</sup>Require a Maltese citizen guarantee  
<sup>4</sup>Temporary borrower category for new members who enrol themselves online

Chart 1: Book loans 2016-2018



# REFERENCE SERVICES

The Reference Library at the CPL 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 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.

For the first time, statistics on the use of the Reference and Melitensia Library were gathered. This library was visited by 569 persons who mainly came to the library for research, studying or for using the Wi-Fi facilities. This section is also equipped with computer stations where a further 803 sessions were recorded.





# TALKING BOOKS SECTION

The Talking Book Service (TBS) aims to reach out not only to library clients with visual impairment and the housebound but also those with reading difficulties as well as those who require or prefer the audio format of a book.

During 2018, the unit's focus was to convert eBooks from the traditional format of cassettes to pen drives. Talking Book loans amounted to 2,489, of which 1,968 were pen drives. The number of persons registered with the TBS reached 109, an increase of 21.6% over the previous year. Clients with visual impairment continued to constitute the largest category of members, accounting for 82.6 percent of all members. The TBS collection was also increased to cater for the required textbooks to be used in primary schools. This new initiative was achieved through the support of the NLA. 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. In 2018, 35 readers volunteered and included personalities such as actors, footballers and authors, most of whom read their own published books.

In the year under review, the section was granted permission to convert audiobooks from HarperCollins and circulate them under specific conditions for the use of blind and/or otherwise print-disabled people as well as housebound clients. The TBS also joined the RNIB (Royal National Institute of Blind People) Bookshare account and became a Primary Contact. The RNIB provides thousands of accessible textbooks and images to support dyslexic, partially sighted or blind learners who have difficulty reading standard print.



# ACQUISITIONS & COLLECTION MANAGEMENT



The Acquisitions Section is responsible for the purchasing of books and eBooks, focusing on building the library collections to reflect readers' needs in a rapidly changing world. The aim is to constantly boost and refresh each collection with the latest and best book releases, both local and international. 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.

During 2018, Public Libraries acquired €85,952.99 worth of library material. This amounted to 10,569 printed books and 1,680 eBooks, totalling 12,249 items. Apart from increasing the traditional book collections, there was a deliberate focus on acquiring more graphic novels, dyslexic-friendly titles, level-readers, eBooks and audiobooks. Donations remained the main source of acquisition, reaching 24,120 items. In 2018, the major contributor was the NLA, donating 3,819 printed books and 1,516 eBooks. Through the support of the NLA, libraries were equipped with a good collection of dyslexic-friendly titles and graphic novels to cater for the needs of all library patrons. Other contributors included the National Book Council, Local Councils, Gutenberg Press and Park Nazzjonali tal-Inwadar among others. A generous donation from New Leaf went towards the upgrade of the Large Print collection to suit the needs of those requesting these types of books such as the visually impaired and elderly. The Serbian, Czech and Slovak communities in Malta also donated a number of books in their respective languages in a bid to address their communities' literacy situation in Malta.



# CATALOGUING & CLASSIFICATION SECTION

The cataloguing team is now made up of 34 staff members. In 2018, the cataloguing team added 53,054 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.

# INTERNSHIPS & VOLUNTARY WORK

During 2018, the CPL accommodated 14 foreign interns mostly through the Erasmus+ Programme. These interns, who came from France, Slovakia, Croatia, Germany and Italy were given training in general library tasks and familiarisation with the library services. Three Maltese students from St Nicholas College were also given the opportunity to carry out hands-on experience at the CPL and given exposure to a team-led environment.

Volunteers are welcome at the CPL and in the year under review three volunteers made a valuable contribution to the library. Besides contributing to the everyday running of the library, they also assisted in special library events.





# OUTREACH WITHIN THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES' NETWORK

Thanks to the Outreach Team we have also seen an increase in demand for visits to the Central Public Library in Floriana from **Primary and Secondary Schools**. The visits usually consist of storytelling sessions followed by activities tailored to fit in with the children's abilities and related to the book that is read to them. The kids receive an information pack welcoming parents to the library, encouraging them to get a library card for their child and introducing them to the book borrowing habit. The junior section of the Central Public Library has doubled up as a space for creativity.



The **Malta Libraries Summer Programme of Events 2018** saw children up to 12 years of age participate in interactive workshops organised in conjunction with a number of teachers, artists and artisans. This programme introduced the young audience to a wide range of skills such as book-binding, mime, animation, electronic music, traditional Maltese instruments, coding and rap music to name just a few. Thematic events to celebrate Carnival, Halloween, Christmas and Easter have now also become a regular occurrence on our calendar and each occasion sees Malta Libraries' staff work alongside volunteers to deliver fun yet educational events.

In our drive to turn public libraries into community hubs we strongly believe in networking with potential partners that share the same mission as Malta Libraries. Stories came to life during the improvised drama sessions that were held in collaboration with the **Malta School of Drama and Dance** and an exciting music programme drawn up with the **Malta School of Music** allowed participants to explore various musical genres, at the same time providing a platform to the budding musicians that took part. Whoever thought libraries were silent would have been confused by the music that flowed from the Central Public Library.


The monthly meeting of 'Magic: The Gathering Library Club' is also possible thanks to our collaboration with **Graphic Novels Library Malta**. This game of strategy, fantasy and fun is not only a card game, but an opportunity for the club members to make friends and challenge other players. In 2018 we also collaborated with the **Malta Classics Association** on a series of events in several Public Libraries across Malta and Gozo entitled 'Meta nikber nixtieq insir eroj!'/'When I grow up I want to be a hero!' where children aged 7-10 were introduced to classical literature in the form of play.



In keeping with Malta Libraries’ main aim to foster a love of reading, public libraries’ opening hours were again extended to enable **Skolasajf** animators to include visits to the libraries in their programme. As it did in previous years Malta Libraries also supported the Summer Reading Challenge ‘**Aqra fis-Sajf**’ campaign organised by the **National Literacy Agency**.

Our participation in **Europe Code Week** in October was another opportunity to collaborate with **Easypeasycoding** and the **eSkills Malta Foundation**. Europe Code Week is a grassroots initiative which aims to bring coding and digital literacy to everybody in a fun and engaging way. This led to further networking with the **Directorate for Digital Literacy & Transversal Skills** who ran family coding sessions at the Central Public Library.






# Gozo BOOK CLUB

*\* The last Wednesday of every month, 10.30 a.m.*

*In 2018 we will be reading:*

Jan.	Nicholas Monnarret
	The Kappilan of Malta
Feb.	Martina Loryscka
	A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian
Mar.	Haruki Murakami
	A Wild Sheep Chase
Apr.	Will Schwalbe
	The End of Your Life Book Club
May	Frances Hodgson Burnett
	Little Lord Fauntleroy
Jun.	Neil Gaiman
	American Gods
Jul.	Rhonda Byrne
	The Magic
Aug.	Nicholas Sparks and Micah Sparks
	Three Weeks With My Brother
Sep.	Vladimir Bartol
	Alamut
Oct.	Ransom Riggs
	Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children
Nov.	Eric Newby
	Love and War in the Apennines
Dec.	Marcus Shiuwiff
	Happy for No Reason

ENDORSED by 

Join our reading group on Facebook - [www.bit.ly/gozo-book-club](http://www.bit.ly/gozo-book-club)

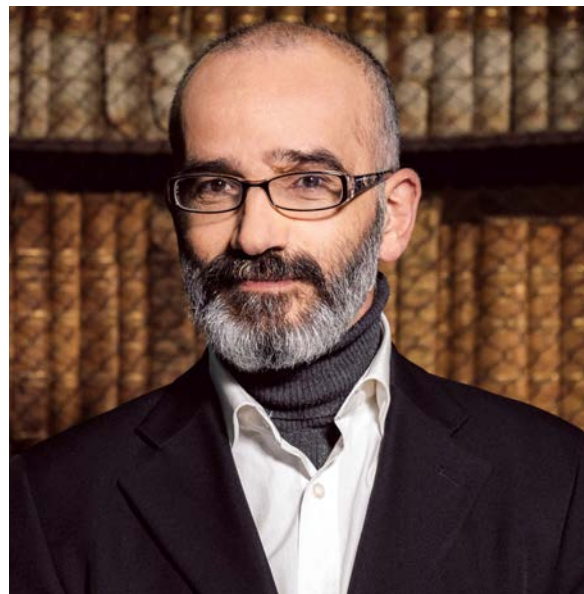
Outreach efforts in Gozo have also helped to raise awareness of its libraries to potential audiences and stakeholders. The **Gozo Book Club** now meets every last Wednesday of the month bringing together book lovers to discuss aspects of the book chosen for that month. Craft and Environmental awareness activities in collaboration with **Wasteserv** as well as other dedicated volunteers continued throughout the year and repeatedly attracted very good audiences to the hosting libraries.



**INTERNATIONAL  
BIBLIO-  
GRAPHIC  
OFFICE**

# NBO

## (NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC OFFICE)



**Oliver Mamo**

*Director – National Bibliographic Office*

The National Bibliographic Office (NBO) was set up in September 2015 as a directorate separate from the National Library within Malta Libraries. The aim of the NBO is to ensure the application of cataloguing standards in its work leading to the establishment of a local authoritative source. To this end, the NBO receives two copies of all publications published under the jurisdiction of Malta. Furthermore, the NBO creates bibliographic records of this material submitted under legal deposit and publishes them within the National Bibliography of Malta.

The NBO manages the off-site storage locations housing the National Collection. This reflects one of the greatest challenges

that the NBO faces, namely the retrospective cataloguing of the national collection.

The NBO creates metadata for scanned images of the national collection, which images are made available through DigiVault – a portal containing these full-text images accessible by the general public. The NBO uses such metadata for collaborative projects such as The European Library. Since 2017, the NBO has taken up the role of Europeana Aggregator. This role involves guiding proprietors of cultural heritage material in creating data describing such material and migrating such data to the portal and consequently making it accessible to the general public.





2018 was an important year for the National Bibliographic Office (NBO). During 2018, works on the new off-site storage facility and the new NBO offices were completed. By mid-year, all the offices were settled in Floriana, thus bringing in all the coordination of work and services offered by the NBO under one roof.

# BIBLIOGRAPHIC WORK

User requests at the National Library of Malta (NLM) indicated that library users were in need of publications which were not accessible through the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC). Additionally, in such instances, the NLM staff often found themselves in difficulty to locate the publications which were held at the NLM. Such searches were based on the scanty information provided by the library users. To this end, the NBO decided that rather than creating full bibliographic records for the 2012 national bibliography and those of more recent years, the utmost priority was to have basic bibliographic records of all the recent publications.

Following this inventory work, the full cataloguing could commence and the subsequent publication of the national bibliographies that are pending. This strategy would allow the NLM to manage its collection adequately while providing the necessary academic access points for users in terms of resource discovery. During 2018, the NBO completed the inventory of publications that were published during the years 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015.



The publications pertaining to the year 2018 which were received throughout the year, were also included in the said inventory. This leaves those publications that are current and those pertaining to years 2016 and 2017 to be concluded during 2019. All the publications in the inventory are now accessible by the public through the OPAC.

Having the cataloguing and the legal deposit units within the same building, increased the coordination of work to levels that before were not possible for the NBO to achieve. Such coordination was instrumental in fine-tuning good practices and correcting malpractice. A latter example includes the annuals published by local parishes and societies on the occasion of the feast of the local patron saint. For some reason, such material was not captured and catalogued as a monograph such as in instances which include institutions' annual reports, school yearbooks, etc. Consequently, it was decided that this entire collection of local publications needs to be catalogued in full prior to any further publication of the national bibliography, so as to ensure its inclusion. The work on this collection is being scheduled for 2019.

## DIGIVault

The NBO published metadata pertaining to 230,000 digital assets. Since the system was launched and workflows became the routine of the day, it was felt that DigiVault had to be redesigned in two ways. The first requirement was to have DigiVault operating in a more robust environment. This entails having the web servers at MITA rather than in-house, having updated equipment which is compatible with the rest of the machines used within Malta Libraries, and having full-scale support of the system in terms of networks, hardware and software.

The second requirement was to have DigiVault achieve higher standards of usability, compatibility, connectivity and in expectance of user-searching behaviour. This would mean having every record in MARC 21 format, which would make the retrospective



cataloguing effort of the national collection more reasonable, metadata re-use could be scaled by the system and become seamless for the NBO, and include enrichments and/or measures of efficiency in the creation of the digital assets themselves.

It was forecast that by the end of 2018, Malta Libraries would have in place the existing raw data from Dublin Core migrated within the MARC21 structure. This was achieved successfully and now the NBO with the assistance of ICT Support Unit of Malta Libraries are in a position to update the records in the new system and start adding the digital assets gradually to every record prior to its launch. In the interim, the old system has been kept running for the benefit of our clients using the service.

# OFF-SITE REPOSITORIES

While maintenance work at the Hal Far repository is ongoing and continued during 2018, the NBO now has a new repository in Floriana. Currently, this repository increased the shelving capacity available for the NBO with 184 metres of shelving. This space has already left an impact on storage issues at the NLM in Valletta in the area known as the Custodian's House. This area was full to the brim with current publications. Double copies of these publications are being received at the Floriana repository for permanent storage.



# 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.

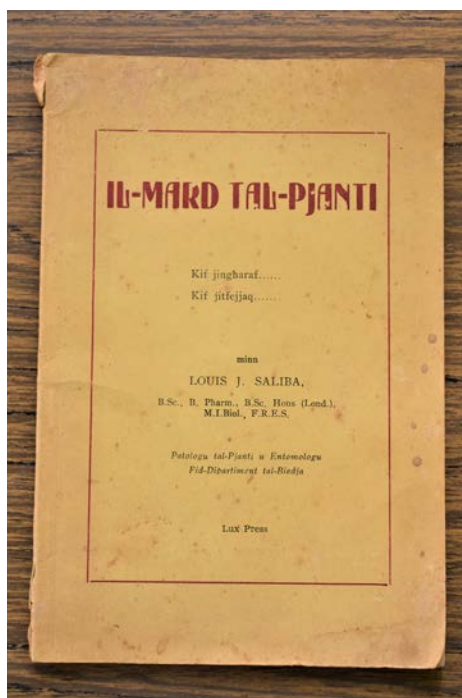
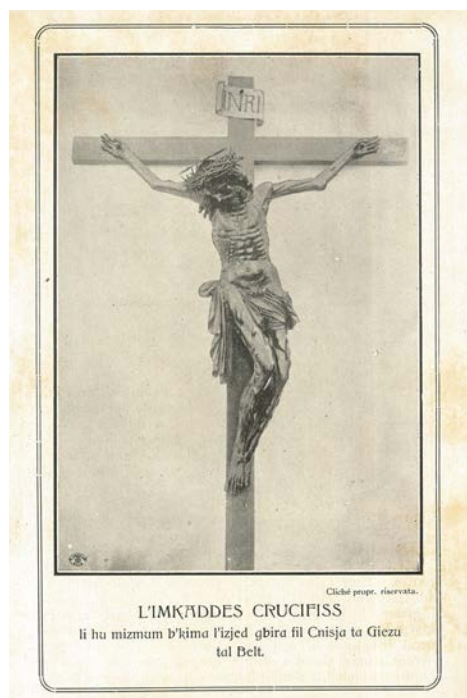
All book publications from the pre-1940s period are held, given that in the pre-war period the malpractice of removing original covers to replace with 'in-house' binding deprived NLM of possessing them as true whole copies. The chosen documents are cleaned from any residue or particulate matter, checked 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.



**Rare first editions, subject specific publications and limited edition sets of colour prints were recovered**





Imxi Uraiija.

S. L. E.

## The different formats recovered are:



### Books

Including monographs of more than eight pages



### Periodicals



### Compact discs



### Digital video discs



### Audio cassettes



### Ephemera

Includes calendars, recipe cards and posters

The majority of the 1,208 books recovered were in the Maltese language, followed by English, a few in Italian as well as guide books in Dutch. This is the second consecutive year in which a high number of retrospective publications were recovered, and there were also several instances when similar holdings that had been recovered in 2017 were encountered in the process and therefore uncollected.

Among the most salient acquisitions was *L-Angli tal-Paċi*, a rare 334-page hardbound volume published in 1917 by the Franciscan Order. This holding, which was recovered in fair condition, includes a number of original plates that include a period photograph of the renowned crucifix held at Ta' Ġiezu church in Valletta, which dates to 1636 and was recently under restoration. The volume also includes images of religious artefacts within the same church that may have been damaged during the Second World War.

Another important recovery was a set of the complete four books, printed in two volumes by G. Muscat-Azzopardi, entitled *L'Evangeliu Mkaddes ta' Sidna Gesu Cristu* by every evangelist and published by Andolfo & Magro Edituri of Valletta between 1914 and 1917. The condition of these extremely rare editions was very good with no presence of book lice or silverfish larvae, although fumigation as a precautionary measure was suggested. The 1903 Maltese translation by I. Formosa of the devotional book *Il Consolator Miratore*, originally published in Italian in 1859 and written by Giacomo Lambilotte, was also recovered.

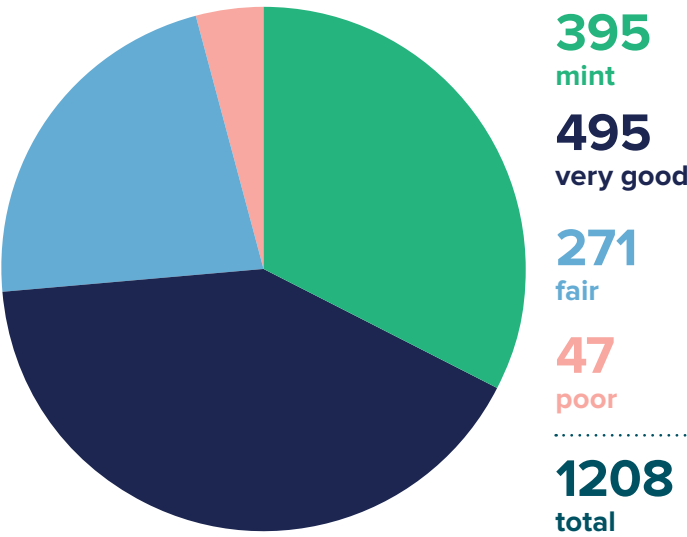
Others included a period regulation book for the exclusive Marsa Sports Club, a 1946 monograph by Kelinu Vella Haber, entitled *Is-santwarju nazzjonali tal-Qala u l-Kaddis eremita ta' Wied il-Ghasel: grajjiet storici* and a promotional 28-page publication entitled *Dolphin world: Maltaquarium* that was located at the Dragonara Hotel in St Julians in the 1960s.

Books written by prominent Maltese authors, hitherto not deposited, such as those penned by Salvu Agius, Dijonisju Mintoff, Arturo Dimech, Ġużeppi Cumbo, L.N. Micallef, Joe Galea and Alfie

Guillaumier were also recovered. These were mostly Maltese-language novels published in facsimile in the 1950s and 1960s, with all pages included.

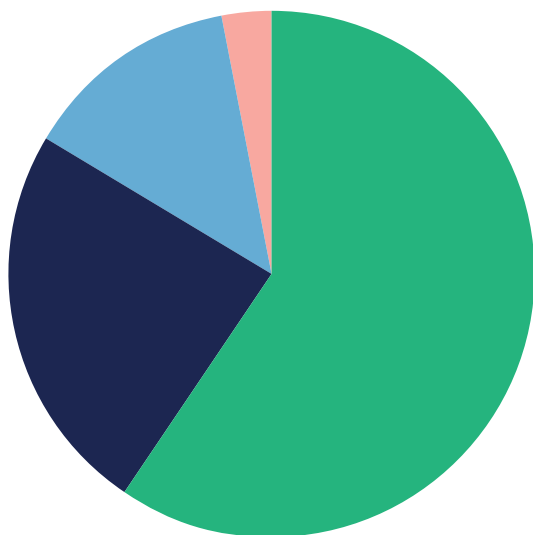
From this pie chart one can consider the high amount of 395 mint (32.7%) publications that were acquired. These were either purchased by their owner or received as a gift, and remained unread. Several of these had autographs or dedications. The predominant genre of mint publications was, as in 2017, that of a devotional content or Maltese poetry books. There was a positive shift of 495 very good books (41%), up from 11% in 2017, including several that were nearly in mint condition but had some erasable pencil scribbling. This positive increase in percentage was a successful shift on 2017 of those 271 holdings classified as fair (22.4%) and 47 as poor (3.9%).

Condition of books recovered





## Types of records recovered



**1208**  
books

**488**  
periodicals

**271**  
ephemera

**58**  
audiovisual  
& optical

**2025**  
total

**1208 Melitensia retrospective publications recovered by NBO January – December 2018 by condition included several complete Maltese-language fascimile volumes released in the 1950s and 1960s.**

The evaluation process undertaken took several factors into consideration. These included a thorough inspection of all documents, with regard 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.

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 including the turbulent years when Maltese was declared (in 1934) as an official language instead of Italian, and the 1940s being dominated by the Second World War.

488 periodicals were recovered, including a complete mint set of 16 issues of the first Journal of the Faculty of the Arts (1960-1975) and an additional 11 copies of the missing issues – including number 62 from 1979 – of the children’s monthly Saghtar, which ceased publication in 2015. The monthly percentage of recovered periodicals decreased as compared to 2017 due to the re-categorisation of the annual parish feast publications to the more appropriate status of monographs. The publisher of Design & Decor, first issued in 1990, provided all the missing back issues that were identified by NBO and these have been deposited at NLM and NLM (Gozo). Two copies of several issues of Scientia: a quarterly scientific review from the 1940s and 1950s, edited by Fr Seraphim Zarb were also recovered.

## Ephemera

The ephemera records, which total 271 documents, included the complete set of 20 colour prints, number 321 of the limited 1,000 copy edition of Bank of Valletta commissioned prints by local artist Envin Cremona (1919-1987), calendars and 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 1981. Nineteen categories have been completed and parts of two waterless recipe sets by the same publisher recovered.

## Non-book materials

The recovery of non-book material recovered totalled 58 documents, divided into compact discs, digital video discs and magnetic tape audio cassettes, given that no DAT or open reel tapes are known to have been released locally and no published VHS tapes were encountered. A number of compact discs in mint condition, including Doreen Galea’s 2009 double-album Ommi, Freddie Portelli’s Inkanta bil-Malti (2016) and Peter Calamatta’s Peter Calamatta Goes Country (2017), Maltese pop audio cassettes such as Joe Cutajar’s cover versions in the album Strangers in the Night, and Amanda Bugeja’s Christmas tracks in Maltese Milied ma’...Amanda, the Maltese feature film Qerq (2007)

by Louis Cuschieri and the audiovisual documentary Bormla: il-belt Cospicua (2010?) were collected. The NBO has also initiated a database in which such NBM documents are listed according to specific mandatory fields that indicate the data content. This shall be an ongoing process.

# 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 email, 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 a need was felt to help assist 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.

There was a continuation in the general mapping of a given sector, i.e. sports, with the creation of client information accounts of all football clubs affiliated to the Malta Football Association and of several ministerial bodies, which is much more complex due to the diverging composition of ministries according to successive legislatures as well as CIAs for private schools, both church and independently run, church or religious orders, monasteries and nunneries in Malta and Gozo.

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.

In 2018 CIA records for the Ministry for Justice, Culture & Local Government, the Ministry for Home Affairs & National Security, Ministry for Energy & Water Management, Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure & Capital Projects, Ministry for the Economy, Investment & Small Businesses, Ministry of Health have all been completed. Data harvesting was also started for the Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development & Climate Change, whereas the erstwhile downloaded digital documents from various ministries shall require file organisation and quantification.

# DEPOSIT OF LEGAL DEPOSIT MATERIAL

One of the most important tasks of the NLM is conserving the national written memory and this is achieved by means of the Legal Deposit Act which stipulates that **authors or publishers are bound by law to deliver to the NLM two copies of any work printed and published in the Maltese Islands free of charge.** After the setting up of the National Bibliographic Office at Floriana, the functions of collecting legal deposits still hold, mainly, retaining one copy for Malta while the other copy is forwarded to NLM (Gozo).

During 2018, a total of 384 books were collected as legal deposits while the year 2017 collection saw an increase from 456 to



580 books, thus retrieving titles which were not sent during the previous year while welcoming the new material of 2018. An up-to-date inventory is set up to keep the data of such new publications on record. An acknowledgement is duly sent to the author or publisher involved.

Other material includes audiovisual Melitensia in various formats like compact discs, videos and audio cassettes. Besides these collected items, several books retrieved from other venues have been organised and catalogued as these come from different previous years of publication.



# NLM HOLDING STOCK ASSESSMENT

In 2018 a library assistant within NBO was given the responsibility of conducting a retrospective back catalogue of three of the most popular and most frequently read periodical magazines in the Maltese Islands: *Il-Gwida*, *The Sunday Circle* and *Style on Sunday*. This was done with the aim of having them barcoded, which in turn would make them more search-accessible via the NLM Catalogue; while also keeping an updated record of what is available and what is still missing.

Due to the large quantities of back issues that had accumulated in the NLM over the years, with the first issue dating back to 1962, this exhaustive yet important endeavour yielded the results sought, with 20 issues missing from 2,642 up to Issue 49 of 8th December 2018. The NLM has all issues of *Style on Sunday* from No 1 of December 2008 up to Issue 41 December 2018. The assessment of *Sunday Circle*, from December 1994 to December 2018, resulted in 51 issues missing from the 286 published since then.

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*Opposite image: Rare first editions*



# ICTSU REPORT



## INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT UNIT



The ICT Support Unit (ICTSU) is directly responsible for the management of Malta Libraries' enterprise system and other ancillary systems together with their related online portals. The Unit, managed by Simon Cutajar, is also responsible for all the entity's ICT infrastructure comprising of more than 180 PCs and laptops, almost 300 pieces of peripheral equipment, and various local area networks (LANs), which are spread out across 61 sites around Malta and Gozo. It is also responsible for the management of third-party suppliers – including MITA and the enterprise's system supplier – supervising 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, together with the revocation of same for transferred and retired employees. Moreover, the ICTSU handles a good number of daily requests for information on the use of desktop software such as Microsoft Office and on the use of the library system, and various 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.

## MALTA LIBRARIES' ENTERPRISE APPLICATION

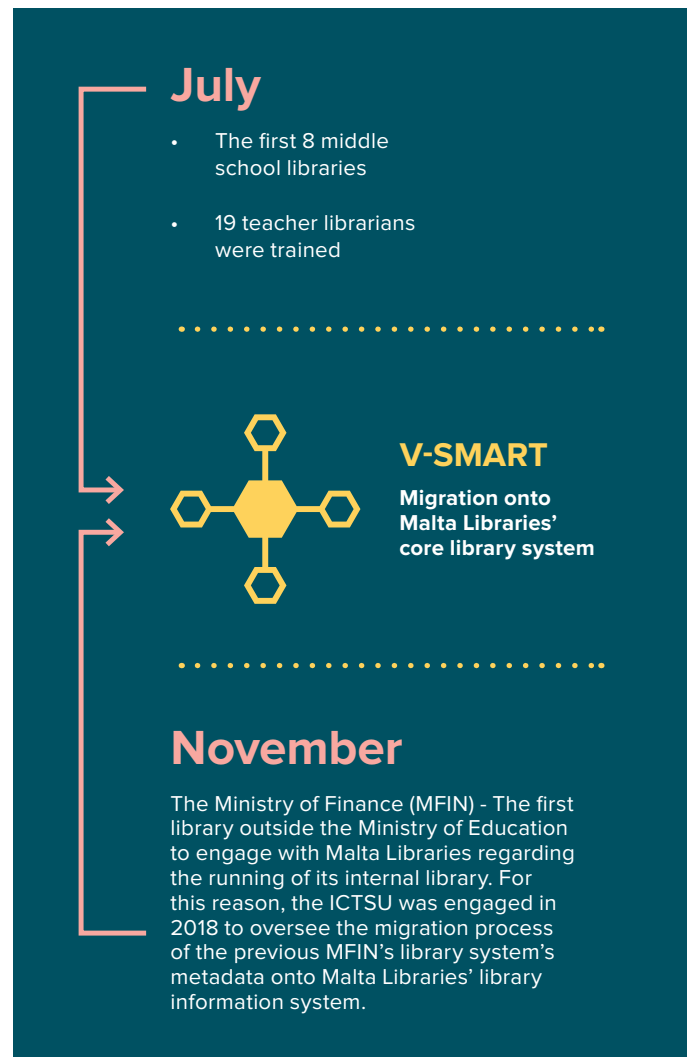
Malta Libraries uses the library information system known as V-smart as its core business application. Like all large business applications, this system requires regular maintenance and upgrades to keep up with emerging technologies and/or services, while staying focused on the needs of its users, mainly the libraries' clientele. The regularly scheduled upgrades were therefore implemented on all its modules by the system's supplier and monitored and tested by the ICTSU. A total of 129 incidents and/or requests for enhancements and information were raised by the ICTSU in 2018, with the system's supplier. All these cases were followed up, tested, concluded and documented by the same unit.

## MIGRATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIES ONTO MALTA LIBRARIES' ENTERPRISE APPLICATION

Following an agreement between the National Literacy Agency and Malta Libraries, the first eight middle school libraries were migrated in July onto Malta Libraries' core library system – V-smart. Thorough test migrations were performed in the preceding months by the ICTSU in collaboration with other units within Malta Libraries and staff within the National Literacy Agency to ensure that all metadata from the current school libraries' information system could be seamlessly migrated. 19 teacher librarians were trained by the ICTSU in 2 separate three-day training courses within Malta Libraries in October.

## MIGRATION OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE'S LIBRARY ONTO MALTA LIBRARIES' ENTERPRISE APPLICATION

Malta Libraries aims to help other libraries, especially government-owned libraries, to better their performance and user experience and to guide them to internationally recognised library standards and practices. The Ministry of Finance (MFIN) was the first library outside the Ministry of Education to engage with Malta Libraries regarding the running of its internal library. For this reason, in 2018 the ICTSU was engaged to oversee the migration process of the previous MFIN's library system's metadata onto Malta Libraries' library information system. This process was concluded in November 2018.



## DIGITAL ASSETS MANAGEMENT

Malta Libraries is currently in the process of migrating its digital assets from the current DigiVault portal onto V-smart. The enterprise application server's resources were upgraded in this regard and the new Digital Assets Management module was implemented within Malta Libraries' V-smart.

## GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR)

With the introduction of GDPR, the ICTSU activated several enhancements to the Libraries' library information system which was already GDPR-compliant.

## 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. The procedure for the importing of the data of the yearly intake of new students in public schools, was also successfully concluded in October.

## UPGRADING OF PABX SERVICES AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MALTA (NLM)

The analogue PABX equipment installed at the NLM has been replaced through the extension of the new PABX VoIP services newly installed at the Ministry of Education. The ICTSU together with the Information Management Unit at the Ministry of Education, concluded the installation of the new telephony services with the solid contribution of both services and hardware made by the same Information Management Unit.

## NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE AT THE CENTRAL PUBLIC LIBRARY (CPL)

Most of the network cabling at the CPL has been upgraded from the much limited CAT5 standard to the more bandwidth-capable CAT6 standard cabling. This included works in all libraries, the training room, and most of the offices within CPL that were still connected to the old standard. The ICTSU took this opportunity to plan and implement more network points to accommodate any future increase in the amount of hardware connected to the Gov network in this building.

## NEW CATALOGUING OFFICE

The ICTSU coordinated all the plans and the works required for the creation of a new Cataloguing office within the CPL, including the related ICT requirements. The new office was in place by June 2018.

## NEW HARDWARE

145 new PCs and laptops were purchased by the ICTSU to replace obsolete hardware that had been installed within Malta Libraries for the past 11 years. The project for the replacement of this hardware was divided into two phases with the first phase of hardware to be concluded in 2018 including all the PCs and laptops within the Central Public Library at Floriana, the National Library at Valletta, the Gozo Central Public Library in Victoria – Gozo, and the National library (Gozo Annex) also in Victoria – Gozo. Phase two, which includes the replacement of the hardware in all area libraries, will be concluded by the end of the first quarter of 2019. The ICTSU physically concluded the replacement of 74 new machines in the mentioned four libraries, by November 2018.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF MICROSOFT OFFICE 365

The Maltese government, through its ICT agency MITA, has concluded an agreement with Microsoft to implement MS Office 365 throughout the government. The ICTSU has attended several meetings and conferences in this regard and was instrumental in Malta Libraries being chosen by MITA as one of its pilot sites for the implementation of the MS Office scheme. MS Office 365 is available to Maltese Gov users in two options, either entirely on the Cloud, or locally installed on PCs and laptops with the government totally in favour of encouraging its users towards the online version rather than the locally installed implementation. Through the new MS Office scheme, the ICTSU was able to migrate all Malta Libraries users from the very old MS Office 2007, and urge them to migrate all their data onto the Cloud thus avoiding the need for personal backups and inevitable loss of data. The ICTSU guided all Malta Libraries personnel on the use of the new software and all the related cloud services on an individual basis and continuously responded to requests for information and other queries from all members of staff in this regard.

## PUBLIC LENDING RIGHTS

The ICTSU, on behalf of Malta Libraries, undertakes to issue the Public Lending Rights report on a quarterly basis to be submitted to the National Book Council for the latter to be able to issue payments to Maltese authors for loans of their books by all libraries within Malta Libraries.



**OPERAT-  
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DEPART-  
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# OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT



**Joanne Sciberras**  
*Director Library Operations*

The Operations Department within Malta Libraries incorporates the Finance, Human Resources, Procurement and Administration Units. This Department also encapsulates the Outreach Unit and works closely with the newly established Curatorial Affairs Unit.

The main roles of the Operations Department include:

- Personnel administration
- Programme initiation and implementation
- Directing and co-ordinating the preparation of the entity's annual

financial estimates and administration of the entity's budget

- Preparation and delivery of the entity's strategic and business plans
- Overseeing of personnel administration for library staff
- Overall responsibility for the day-to-day running of the Finance, Administration, HR and Marketing Departments
- Managing and co-ordination of the holding of cultural / literary events on Malta Libraries' premises
- Revenue generation through the holding of activities, hire of premises

# HR MATTERS & ADMINISTRATION

During 2018, the Human Resources Section contributed to the areas of HR planning, capacity building, training and development. By the end of 2018, Malta Libraries had a staff complement of 99 employees across all units in Malta and Gozo.

## Staff Complement



Throughout the year, the Operations Department fulfilled its obligations of recruiting new employees according to its approved HR Plans for the year.

## Recruits 2018

Title of Post/Position	External / Internal
Post of Administrative Officer (Conservation Unit)	Internal
Post of Head (Maintenance)	Internal
Post of Manager Curatorial Affairs with Malta Libraries	Internal
Post of Library Assistant	External
Post of Library Attendant	External
Post of Outreach and Cultural Events Officer	External
Position of Director National Bibliographic Office	Public Call
Position of National Librarian & CEO	Public Call

This Department also continued to effectively implement its Performance Appraisal Programme for all employees, which aims to evaluate each staff member’s skills, performance and needs. In fact throughout 2018, Malta Libraries continued to encourage career development and members of staff benefited from training, seminars and workshops in Malta and abroad. Main areas of training included librarianship, management, marketing, library information systems, procurement, payroll systems and accounting.

During 2018, this unit started working on a new HR software to transfer all leave and sick leave records online. With regard to registry files, a total of 70 new files were opened in 2018. Besides, during 2018, this unit also provided terms of reply to 31 Parliamentary Questions.

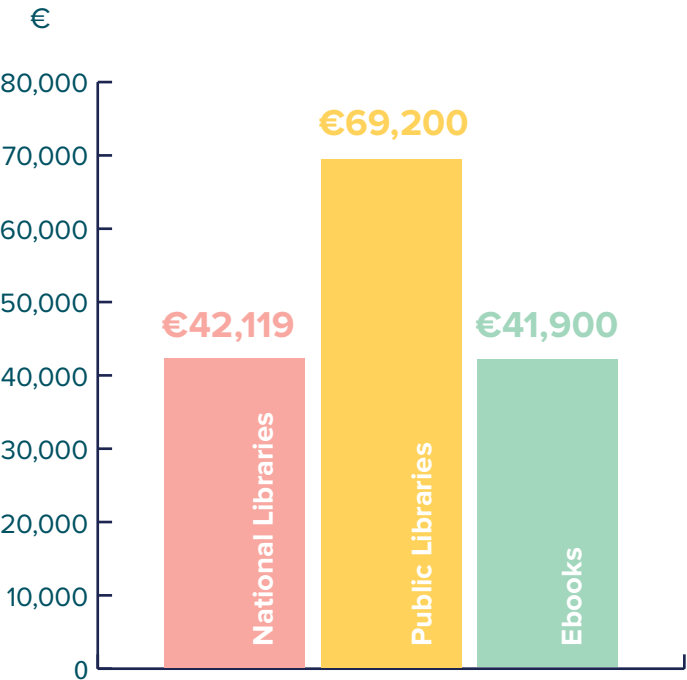
# FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT

During the financial year of 2018, Malta Libraries started operating its accounts through the tranche system as approved by the Ministry of Finance, whereby the entity received its annual recurrent budget of €2,950,000 in quarterly tranches of €737,500. Due to this change, in 2018, the entity switched to a new accounting package and procurement system which became fully functional on the 1st of January 2018. All accounting officers received the necessary training on the system to ensure continuity of service.

During 2018, the Procurement Unit was responsible for the formulation, publication and processing of the following closed quotations and expressions of interest as per Public Procurement Regulations. The unit also provides other Directorates and Sections within Malta Libraries with the necessary support and advice on public procurement. During 2018, the Unit has collaborated with the Department of Contracts and the Central Procurement Unit at the Ministry for Education and Employment for the publication of two tenders related to the installation of a passenger lift at the National Library of Malta. Furthermore, officers within this unit also underwent training in the electronic Public Procurement System (ePPS).

The Procurement Unit was also in charge of administering the sum of €120,000 granted by the Government for the acquisition

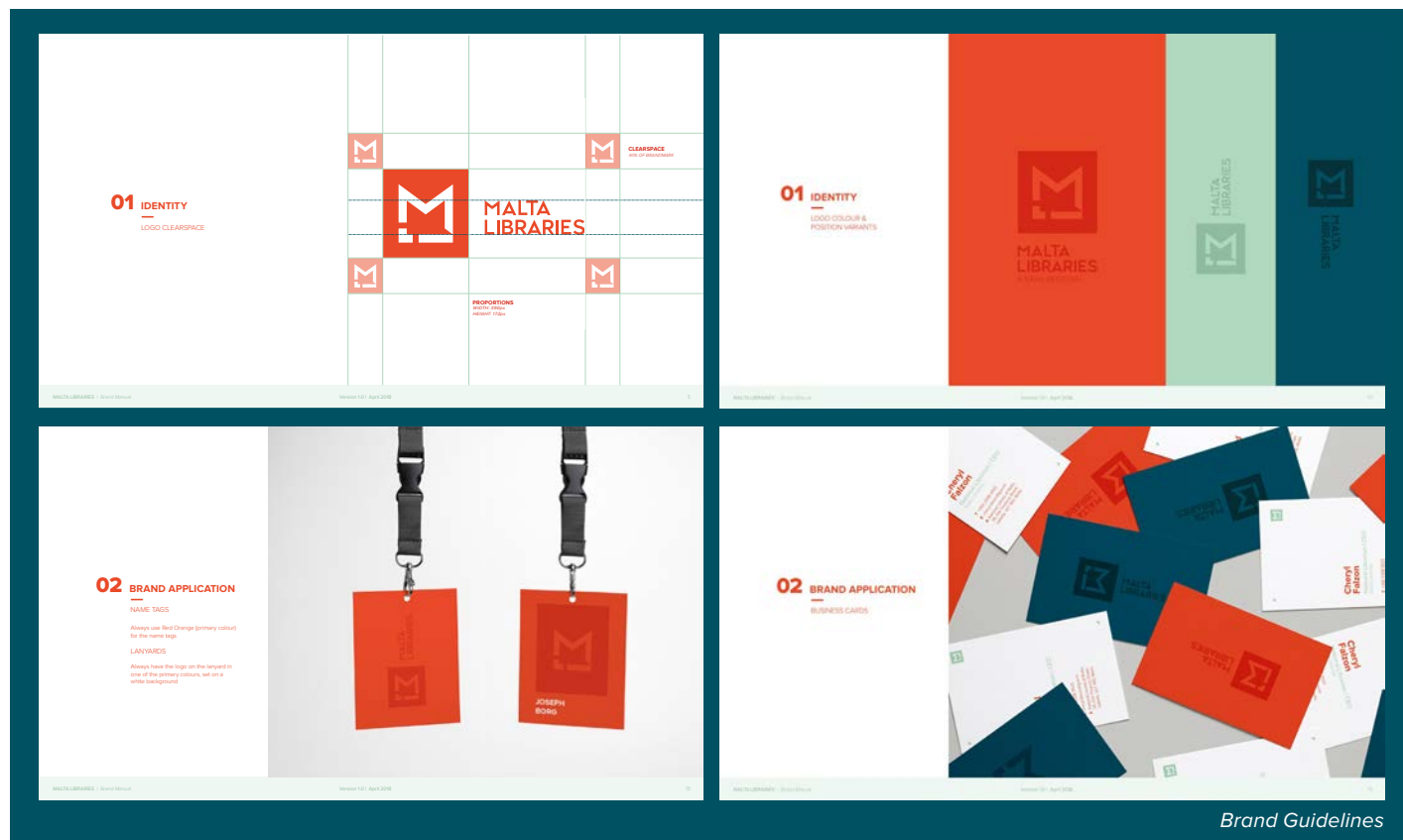
of books. This sum was also supplemented by a refund given by the National Literacy Agency for the purchase of children’s books .



# OUTREACH AND MARKETING

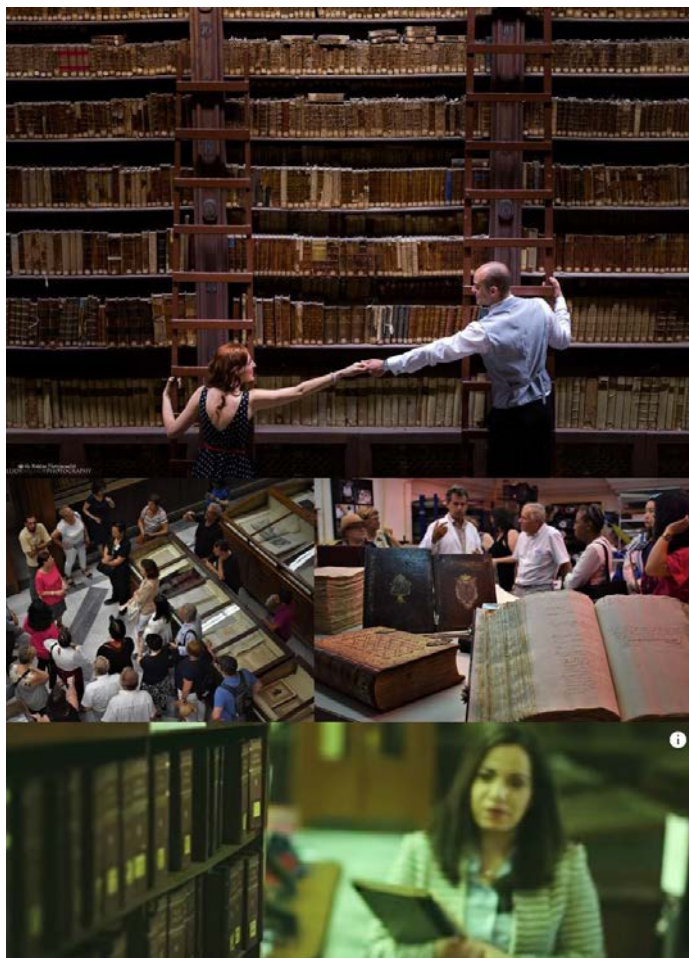
Malta Libraries' branding exercise was undoubtedly the highlight of 2018. The launch took place on World Book Day and National Libraries Day on 23rd April. While Malta Libraries remained true to its mission statement, it sought to evaluate and redefine its relevance by going beyond the traditional aspects of libraries and focus on building a strong and consistent presence in a technology dominated world. The exercise was to provide a clear

direction as to what Malta Libraries aims to achieve, encourage ownership at staff level, raise awareness among its users of a wider range of Outreach programmes and services which Malta Libraries offers and engage first-time users. This approach has enabled Malta Libraries to extend audiences and develop a firmer base for remaining sustainable into the future.





While the National Library's role as a research and reference library remains unchanged, its redefined purpose is to widen access to the public by making the venue available for conferences, public lectures, exhibitions, concerts, book launches, photo shoots, filming and civil wedding ceremonies. For Malta Libraries to achieve this objective an effective marketing strategy was vital.



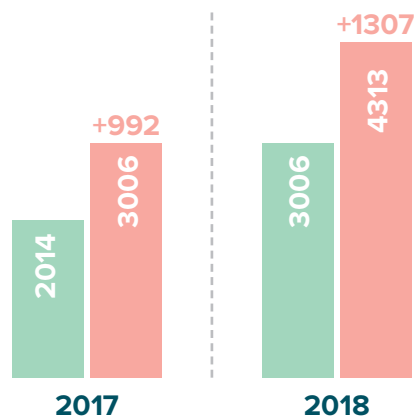
Malta Libraries does not rely solely on social media to maintain visibility and recognition. Annual events like the **Malta Comic Con** and the **Malta Book Festival** are opportunities to promote library services and enrol new members. This year's stands offered a very welcoming space for school children, families and readers of all ages to find out about the services offered by Malta Libraries, become new members, participate in library craft tutorials, storytelling sessions and book-binding demonstrations by the National Library's team of restorers and binders.



All efforts to maintain and increase visibility via social media channels have paid off in 2018 and the statistics for @MaltaLibraries speak for themselves. With creative content writing covering all Malta Libraries' projects and collaborations and

up to the minute updates about its libraries and services, social media channels now serve as creative portals and extensions of the official website [maltalibraries.gov.mt](http://maltalibraries.gov.mt).

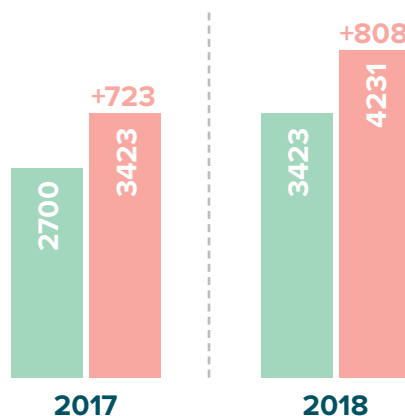
### MALTA LIBRARIES PAGE



**31.75% INCREASE IN FOLLOWERS**



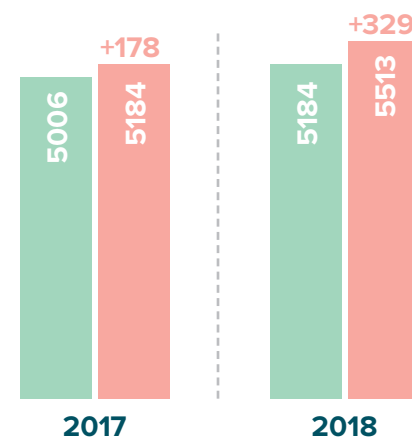
### CENTRAL PUBLIC LIBRARY - MALTA PAGE



**11.75% INCREASE IN FOLLOWERS**

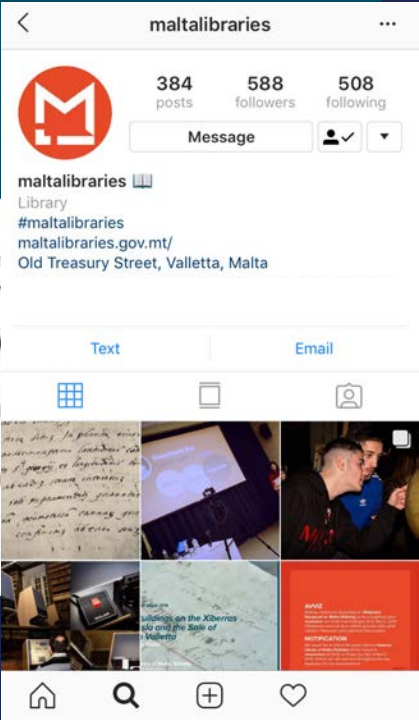


### NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MALTA PAGE



**84.83% INCREASE IN FOLLOWERS**





Malta Libraries Twitter page (above), and Instagram profile (right)

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

As a service we are always looking to build links, seek out opportunities and find ways to work with the local community. Malta Libraries, in collaboration with the Active Ageing Community Directorate, has continued to be of support to the elderly residents in Mellieha and Mtarfa Care Homes to remain actively engaged in the world of learning. Apart from weekly animated reading sessions, residents also benefit from the book lending service that is provided at the nursing home in Mellieha. The increase in loans from the Library set up at the residential Home highlights the positive impact libraries can effect on people's health and well-being.



Malta Libraries also runs mentoring sessions every scholastic year for Sixth Form students from St Aloysius College. Students are trained to provide a reading service in Homes for the Elderly as part of their Social Responsibility programme of their Systems of Knowledge project.

Malta Libraries' Outreach team also supports people with dementia by running a reading service at St Vincent de Paule Dementia Day Centre. These sessions have proved to be very successful in allowing people with dementia to share distant memories triggered by the stories that are read to them. Local history books in particular provide them with the opportunity to reminisce and share experiences, while pictures and photos spark recognition of familiar places that help to stimulate conversations.

# COLLABORATION WITH CURATORIAL AFFAIRS UNIT

In March 2018 the role of a Manager of Curatorial Affairs was established, aiming at addressing issues related to the preservation, restoration and presentation of the historical buildings and collections within the entity. Works carried out by this unit in 2018 in collaboration with the various sections of the Operations Department included:

- The commencement of a project of collaboration between Malta Libraries and the Archives Section of the Works Department that will see the restoration, digitisation and exhibition of a set of old plans and drawings of the National Library and features within it.
- On the occasion of World Autism Awareness Day on 2nd April, Malta Libraries joined several institutions worldwide in the Light it Up Campaign by illuminating the National Library's façade in blue.
- Works related to the issuing and adjudication of two tenders for the installation of a lift and the structural alterations necessary at the National Library.
- An agreement was made with the Manufacturing and Services Directorate for the restoration and repair of apertures on the roof of the National Library.
- Repair and restoration works were carried out on a deteriorated timber beam in the soffit of the Reading Room of the National Library. A scanning exercise of the whole soffit

was carried out, which should enable the preparation of a methodology for its complete restoration.

- Guidelines and conditions for the use of the National Library premises for individuals or entities wishing to hold activities in it were drawn up.
- Liaison with the Lands Authority was resumed, aiming at identifying properties in Valletta that could be transferred to Malta Libraries for the National Library.





# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

<b>TOTAL OWN GENERATED REVENUE</b>	<b>2018</b>
Income generated from own operations	10,228
Other operating income	
Bank interest receivable	110
<b>Total own generated revenue (i)</b>	<b>10,338</b>
<b>GRANTS &amp; OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS - RECURRENT</b>	<b>2018</b>
Parliamentary Appropriation - Government Subvention receivable for Recurrent Expenditure (i)	2,950,153
Other contributions from other public administration	
Donations receivable from sponsorships	23,175
EU Grants receivable to cover Recurrent Expenditure featuring under 'Total Expenses' below	
Other Grants receivable	
<b>Total Grants and other contributions (ii)</b>	<b>2,973,328</b>
<b>a. TOTAL INCOME (i + ii)</b>	<b>2,983,666</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>2018</b>
Direct operating expenses - recurrent	
Salaries and wages	1,893,086
Bonus and income supplement	48,723
Social Security Contributions	185,094
Allowances	104,814
Overtime	12,541
Utilities	67,059
Material and supplies	59,771
Repair and upkeep	34,212
Rent	47,047
International memberships	-
Office services	29,151
Transport	16,116
Travel	1,483
Information services	12,135
Contractual services	233,874
Professional services	196,263
Training	13,489
Hospitality	6,494
Incidental expenses	18,028
Bank interest payable	225
Bad debts written off	-
Increase in provision for bad debts	-
Decrease in provision for bad debts	-
Other Provisions - Capital Funds released to income	16,906
Depreciation charge	25,357
Other recurrent expenditure funded through EU Grants	-
<b>b. Total Expenditure</b>	<b>2,988,055</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) before tax [a - b]</b>	<b>4,389</b>
<b>TAX EXPENSE</b>	<b>2018</b>
Tax expense	
<b>Net surplus / (Deficit) for the period</b>	<b>4,389</b>





