



MALTA
LIBRARIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



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ANNUAL
REPORT
2021

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Malta Libraries

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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

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

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

MALTA LIBRARIES ACT 2011

FOREWORD

FROM THE CEO



Cheryl Falzon
National Librarian & CEO

2021 was yet another eventful year for Malta Libraries as the entity strived to regain some normality amid the ongoing pandemic. Nevertheless, this was no hindrance to embarking on positive endeavours both at a managerial level – with the introduction of a new Director for Gozo – as well as at a service level with the launching of the Octavo Maltese eBook service. These changes were key catalysts for the strengthening of Malta Libraries' services beyond its walls.

The position of Director in Gozo had been the missing link in the managerial structure and this new position helped to narrow the gap between the Maltese libraries and those in Gozo. This ensured that all Malta Libraries' standards and procedures were adhered to in the Gozo libraries as well. Together with Malta Libraries' management staff, Ms Ebejer continued to explore ways of improving and extending services further to cater specifically for the needs of our sister island.

During the pandemic, most of our members switched to online services which resulted in an exponential increase in eBook circulation. This also led to an increase in the demand for digital Maltese literature. Consequently, the launch of the Octavo Maltese eBook service was the natural next step for us. This new service helped Malta Libraries address its patrons' new needs and since its launch on World Book Day it has continued to flourish and gain in popularity and usage.

The pandemic dictated that the National Library had to continue to limit access to visitors; and researchers were only allowed in by appointment. However, this did not deter researchers from exploring the National Library's material either through their physical presence on the premises or by ordering material electronically. Other Library outreach activities had to once again be moved online. The year 2021 marked the centenary of the granting of self-government to Malta, and therefore the series of online features for the year was dedicated to this important milestone in Maltese history. In 2021, the National Library was also awarded a COVID-19 SUPPORT FUND for a Creative Project with a maximum grant of €2,500 by CENL (Foundation Conference of European National Librarians) following a project proposal submitted by the entity in August 2021. This funding helped Malta Libraries with the research, design, printing and digital presentation of informative panels intended to raise awareness among the general public about our National Collections.

During 2021, public libraries started to slowly pick up the pace with regard to physical book circulation which resulted in a total of 621,202, from 617,820 book loans recorded in 2020 – an increase of 0.5 percent. The top libraries that continued to register the highest statistics were the Central Public Library in Floriana followed by the regional libraries in Birkirkara and Luqa respectively, the branch library of Nadur and the Mosta Regional Library. On the other hand, as previously mentioned, the popularity of eBooks continued to prevail during 2021 and their circulation through the Libby App amounted to 40,900 loans.

The National Bibliographic Office's work continued on material received under legal deposit. The material was mainly in the form of monographs and periodicals that were published during the period 2020-2021. Nonetheless, the NBO resumed work on retrospective cataloguing, specifically on serials collection. The Office aimed to reach 100,000 issues available on the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) by the end of 2021. This figure was successfully reached, with the next work target aiming to reach an even higher quota by the end of the following year. Retrospective cataloguing of monographs also carried on and another 1,000 books were catalogued, thus reaching a total of 2,000 records. In 2021, the NBO also launched the Book Cover Image Project as part of a budgetary measure. During this pilot project, the NBO managed to attach around 5,000 images to existing bibliographic records published in the National Library's Online Public Access Catalogue. Following this successful project, the NBO has now integrated this process as part of its ongoing operations.

2021 has made us prouder than ever to be heading this vibrant entity. The targets reached were over and above what we projected and this would not have been possible without the sense of synergy and teamwork championed by Malta Libraries' employees.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MALTA



Maroma Camilleri
Deputy Librarian - National Library of Malta

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MALTA

The COVID-19 pandemic unfortunately continued to dominate the year 2021 in every aspect of life, not least in the field of libraries. Despite the necessary adaptation to a “new normal”, undoubtedly the past two years have posed enormous challenges that have sometimes taken a physical and mental toll. On the other hand, however, it has also served as a catalyst for rethinking and changing

priorities. The National Library is first and foremost an academic institution and in this sense the challenge to adapt was even greater. The challenge was indeed taken up, with the exploration of novel ways and means of enhancing the preservation of our treasures while reaching out to the public in a more effective manner. For the library’s *raison d’être* as custodian and deliverer of information, a new mission



emerged, addressing key issues of access mainly by creating online means of fostering the promotion of knowledge and culture.

The historical and valuable treasures of the library's collections merit the highest level of care in terms of preventive conservation. Throughout 2021, the National Library continued to focus on this important aspect of its mission. However, the Library does not only bear the responsibility for ensuring the physical preservation of its holdings for future generations. Its goal is also to improve its services in the realm of collection digitisation. The issue is how to provide appropriate levels of access to the public while controlling and preserving our collections. Fortunately, technology is on hand to address this concern. We provide high-resolution images of our holdings which actually offer an enhanced experience since the digital representations of materials provide an even better view than would be possible with the originals.

The provision of digital images to our patrons in no way replaces their physical access to the library. But while the library was open to researchers on a regular basis during 2021, the COVID-19 mitigation measures implemented the previous year remained in place. Researchers were granted access upon prior appointment and the limit of six persons per session was maintained, thus making it easier to observe social distance. Visits were resumed but these also had to be pre-booked and open to a limited number of persons. Students and volunteers began to be accepted on the same conditions.

Regrettably, public lectures once again could not be held in the National Library's Reading Room this year. However, the practice of uploading online features had proved to be a great success and was therefore continued. Since the year 2021 marked the centenary of the granting of self-government to Malta, the series of online features this year was dedicated to this important milestone in Maltese history. The series, entitled 'Malta's road to autonomy: 100 years on from the 1921 self-government', saw

the participation of eight historians who delivered 20-minute presentations on a related subject. These were filmed and uploaded on the National Library's social media in two features consisting of four presentations each. The experts' presentations were linked thematically by means of brief historical commentaries prepared by the coordinators of the features. Meanwhile, during 2021, the proceedings of the first series of public lectures held in 2018-2019 on the topic of Urban Landscapes were published while those of the 2019-2020 series about fashion in Malta were collected and edited in view of publication in 2022.

Apart from the online features, National Library staff researched and prepared Facebook posts featuring historical events or anniversaries as well as prominent figures, such as the Grand Masters of the Order of St John. This involuntary shift to online means of communication fortunately opened the door to multiple opportunities which proved to be beneficial. For example, the new 'normal' of utilising remote tools available to the masses ensured accessibility and equity for all. As an academic library, we have discovered a renewed mission to provide knowledge in the online space, thus enabling viewers to become both information rich and digitally competent. Such a strategic vision enabled us to reflect critically on the impact of the pandemic and introduce key changes in order to enhance competences development.

As in previous years, the different sections of staff under the responsibility of the Deputy Librarian collaborated to produce a seamless workflow in order to provide an efficient service to the public as much as possible. All performed their respective tasks with great dedication and sense of service, be it in the Reading Room or in the Conservation or Digitisation Units. Following the accomplishment of various achievements during the past year, the team is primed to meet future challenges armed with its characteristic drive and enthusiasm.

READERS' SERVICES

A total of 1,829 persons – an average of six per day – physically visited the National Library for research purposes. Reading Room staff fetched an average of three items per researcher. Apart from the delivery of requested material and its re-shelving on a daily basis, the staff in this Section also handled researchers' queries and directed readers to the various sources at the library. In cases where the requested material was not available, the public was directed to other sources outside the library. This occurred especially in the case of genealogy-oriented requests.

The majority of researchers who patronised the Reading Room in 2021 conducted research in the library's newspaper collections. Others came to trace their relatives or make specific or general queries usually regarding family surnames, genealogy and sports events. Many consulted documents from the archives of the Order of St John.

Most of the material at the library is in closed-access areas and the main task of the Readers' Services Section is to deliver books and manuscripts from these rooms to the researchers. As far as possible, the material is pre-ordered prior to the visit to minimise researchers' waiting time. This year the Reading Room staff fetched a total of 4,677 items comprising archival manuscript volumes both from the Archives of St John and the Università, Library manuscripts, volumes from the Adami Collection, newspapers and periodicals, as well as printed works. These items averaged 16 per day of opening.

REQUESTED ITEMS 2021

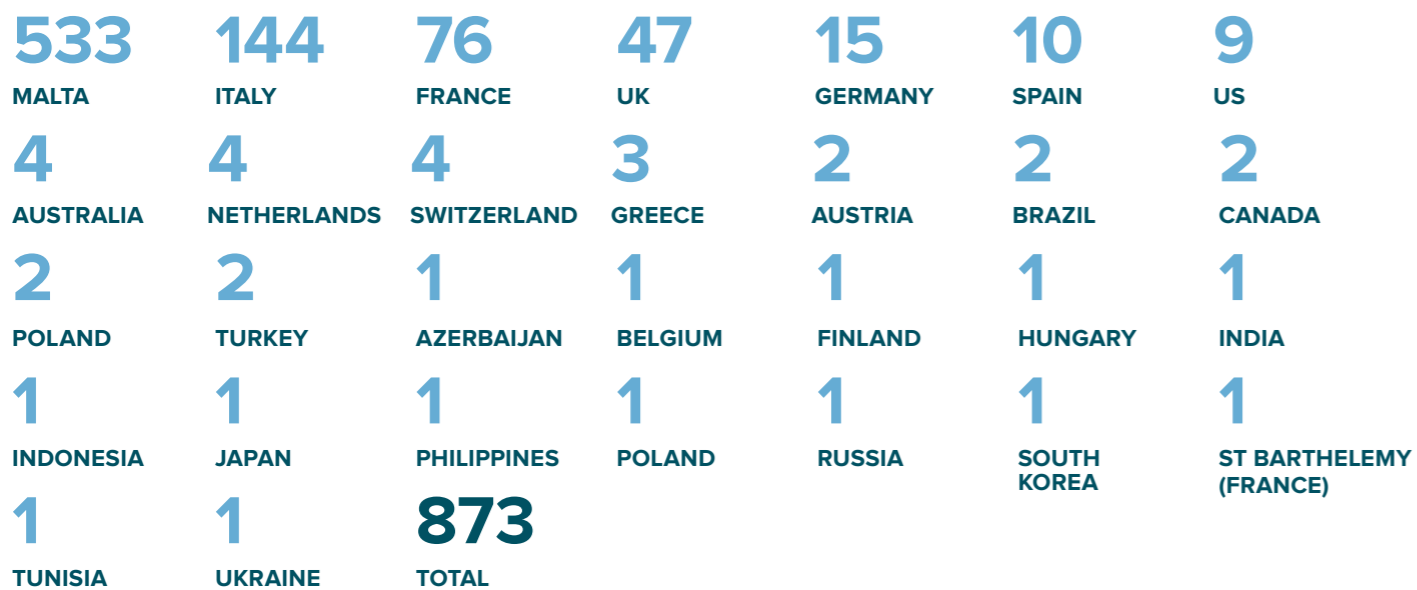
| | AOM | TREAS. | UNIV. | AD | LIBR. MSS | MELIT. | N/PAPERS | TOTAL |
|--------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| JAN | 47 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 41 | 88 | 285 | 468 |
| FEB | 103 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 51 | 78 | 195 | 437 |
| MARCH | 170 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 47 | 47 | 158 | 431 |
| APRIL | 107 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 51 | 93 | 161 | 423 |
| MAY | 134 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 16 | 51 | 266 | 481 |
| JUNE | 41 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 13 | 77 | 258 | 397 |
| JULY | 25 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 50 | 286 | 376 |
| AUG. | 23 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 19 | 68 | 225 | 341 |
| SEPT. | 58 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 29 | 45 | 155 | 297 |
| OCT. | 44 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 49 | 58 | 143 | 305 |
| NOV. | 94 | 2 | 2 | 36 | 19 | 55 | 225 | 433 |
| DEC. | 60 | 2 | 2 | 39 | 27 | 32 | 126 | 288 |
| TOTAL | 906 | 34 | 32 | 111 | 369 | 742 | 2483 | 4677 |

As happened during the first year of the pandemic, during 2021 the requests that reached the National Library mainly by e-mail but also via social media were numerous. Indeed, they continued to increase, with the total this year reaching a record high of 873 requests. This may be attributed to several reasons, one of them being that people have grown accustomed to conducting research and other operations from the comfort of their homes. In fact, 533 requests (61% of the total number) came from Malta. Other queries arrived mostly from Europe but also from the US, Australia, Canada, and from as far as the French island of St Barthelemy in the Caribbean. Italian researchers sent most queries (144), followed by the French (76), and the British (47). While Maltese researchers requested mostly copies from newspapers, electoral registers and government gazettes, foreigners focused more on genealogical enquiries or on the Order of St John whose

archives until 1798 are conserved at the National Library. Other queries were of a general nature, requiring practical information about the library or about its holdings.

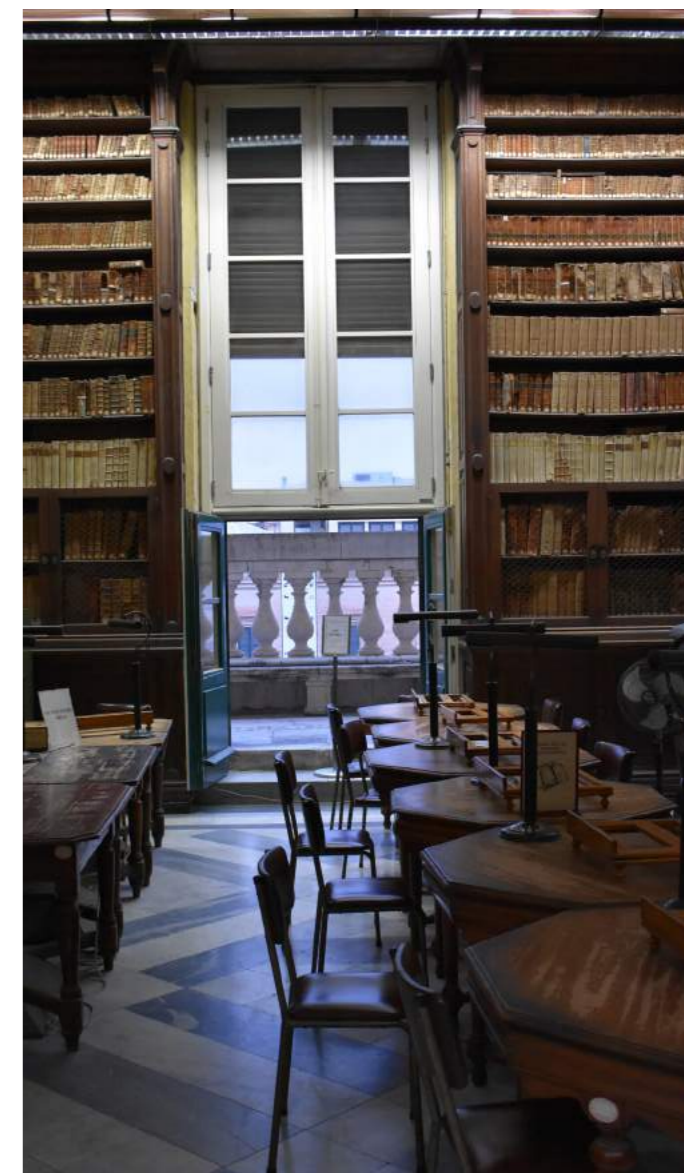
Both on-site and remote users not only requested information but in most cases ordered digital images of the material they researched. The orders were handled by Reading Room staff and passed on to the Digitisation Studio personnel who completed the scanning process within a maximum time of 24 hours. The images were then edited and sent to patrons via WeTransfer. The digital images produced throughout the year amounted substantially to almost 20,000. The digitisation programme is carried out on an on-demand basis, i.e. according to the researchers' requests, and this contributes considerably to the growth of the collection of digitised material of National Library holdings.

QUERIES 2021



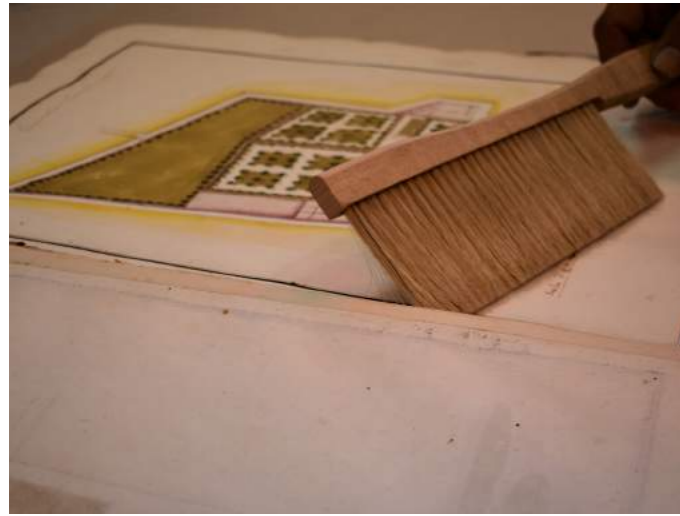
DIGITIZED ITEMS 2021

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| JANUARY | 2228 |
| FEBRUARY | 3603 |
| MARCH | 1375 |
| APRIL | 1441 |
| MAY | 1662 |
| JUNE | 1115 |
| JULY | 1682 |
| AUGUST | 1401 |
| SEPTEMBER | 1457 |
| OCTOBER | 889 |
| NOVEMBER | 1622 |
| DECEMBER | 1419 |
| TOTAL | 19,894 |



CONSERVATION UNIT

During the year under review, the Conservation Unit also returned to their normal working schedules with the four-man staff working on-site. As in previous years, the focus was mainly on preventive conservation with priority being given to the fumigation of books and manuscripts and the disinfection of the wooden shelving. The fumigation process outsourced to SalvArti Co. Ltd continued unabated for most of the year. Meanwhile, the staff continued to perform the day-to-day tasks of binding books and newspapers, manufacturing customised preservation boxes to house important items, as well as the cleaning and repairing of books. As last year, the Conservation staff also collaborated with the Reading Room staff to relocate furniture and declutter much needed spaces to install more shelving. Further work was undertaken on the repair of the wooden letters located above the upper tier of the Reading Room.



Conservation Unit 2021

Repair and rebinding of 397 books

Binding of 410 journals and periodicals

Binding of 151 daily newspapers

Manufacturing of 97 customised preservation acid-free boxes

Repairs of 9 newspapers

Preservation and mounting of 151 artefacts

Manufacturing of 35 customised acid-free folders

Book cleaning, fumigation of books and manuscripts and disinfection of 178 metres of wooden shelving

Repair on 23 wooden classification letters in Reading Room

ACQUISITIONS

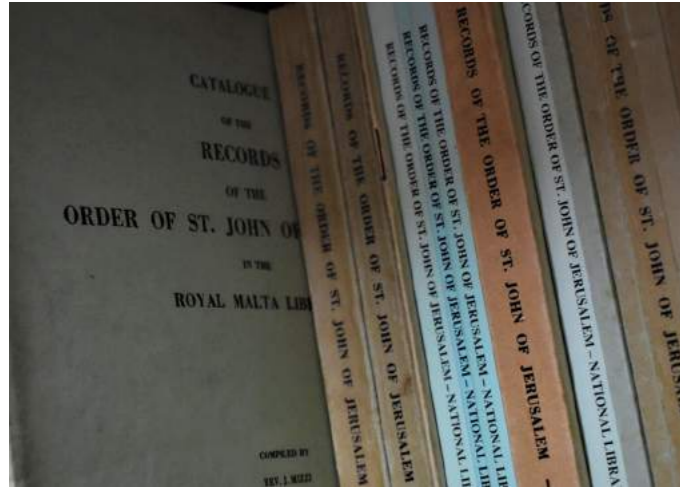
A total of €4,978.76 was spent on the purchase of extra copies of 211 new local publications while 30 publications were purchased from overseas for the total price of €2,693.49. In addition, the National Library also received 16 foreign publications by way of donation, mainly books based on research conducted at the National Library. Another welcome donation consisted of extra copies of Government Gazettes and other Government publications which were transferred from the Department of Public Registry to the National Library. The transfer took place in February 2021. In April, a Heritage Malta official contacted the National Library offering five boxes of local Festa publications. The boxes were brought over in August and were sorted out and arranged by locality.

During the year under review, the National Library also invested in the acquisition of 354 rare and Melitensia items from private sources. The amount of €18,345 was spent on this exercise. Among these items were three letters purchased for €300 from a local Melitensia collector, these being:

1. A Pastoral letter dated 27 April 1930 issued by the Bishop of Malta, Caruana, and the Bishop of Gozo, Gonzi, condemning Lord Strickland in the context of the upcoming election of that year, sparking off the first politico-religious crisis.
2. A Pastoral letter by the same bishops dated 3 June 1932 removing the previous condemnation on Strickland etc, following the agreement reached with Rome.
3. A 1930 papal document condemning Bolshevism, translated in Maltese and published in the context of the upcoming 1930 election.

Another important acquisition consisted of the complete set of the *Catalogues of the Records of the Order of St John* compiled by eminent Maltese scholars and published by the University of Malta between 1964 and 2002. The set was purchased at the price of €500. The rest of the rare items bought during 2021 included rare Melitensia relating to Maltese history, early printed Bibles as well as illustrated editions of the *Divina Commedia* by Dante Alighieri whose 700th anniversary was celebrated this year. The acquisition of such important works contributed in no small way to the enrichment of the National Library collections.



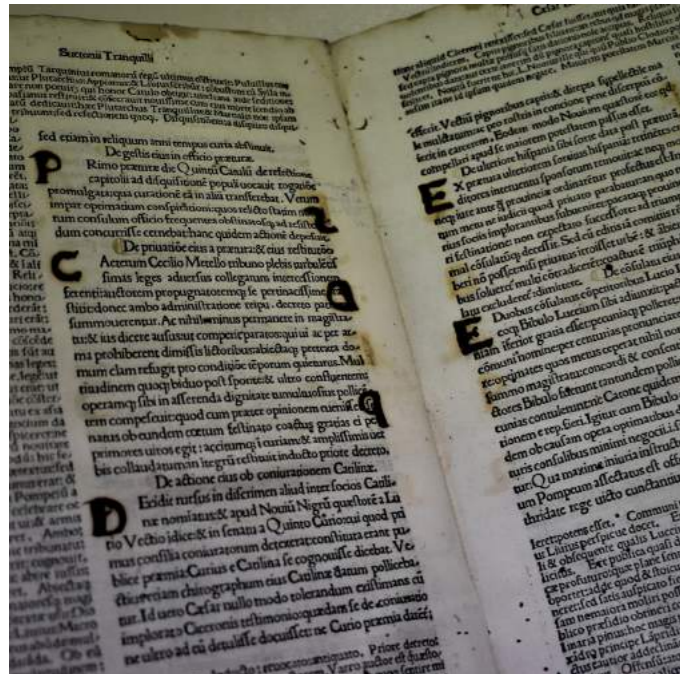


The highlight of the year was the acquisition of a rare incunabulum for €5,000 from a private source. The work consisted of Suetonius Tranquillus (Gaius) *Vitae XII Caesarum* with a commentary by Marcus Antonius Sabellicus, printed in Venice by Baptista de Tortis in 1490. Written by the Roman historian Suetonius (AD 69 – after AD 122), the work constituted a very prestigious addition to the library’s incunabula collection. Copies are found in few institutions around the world, among them the British Library, the Bodleian Library and the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana. The work, probably written in Emperor Hadrian’s time, consists of a set of biographies of 12 successive Roman rulers, from Julius Caesar to Domitian. Regarded as one of the great classical texts, it remained a primary source of Roman history and continued to be used as a reliable fount of information by later historians of the Roman period. The provenance of this particular copy of the work is not known. The book, which on the whole is well-

preserved, is complete and has the original binding in vellum. It contains occasional manuscript marginal notes which date back to the 17th century.

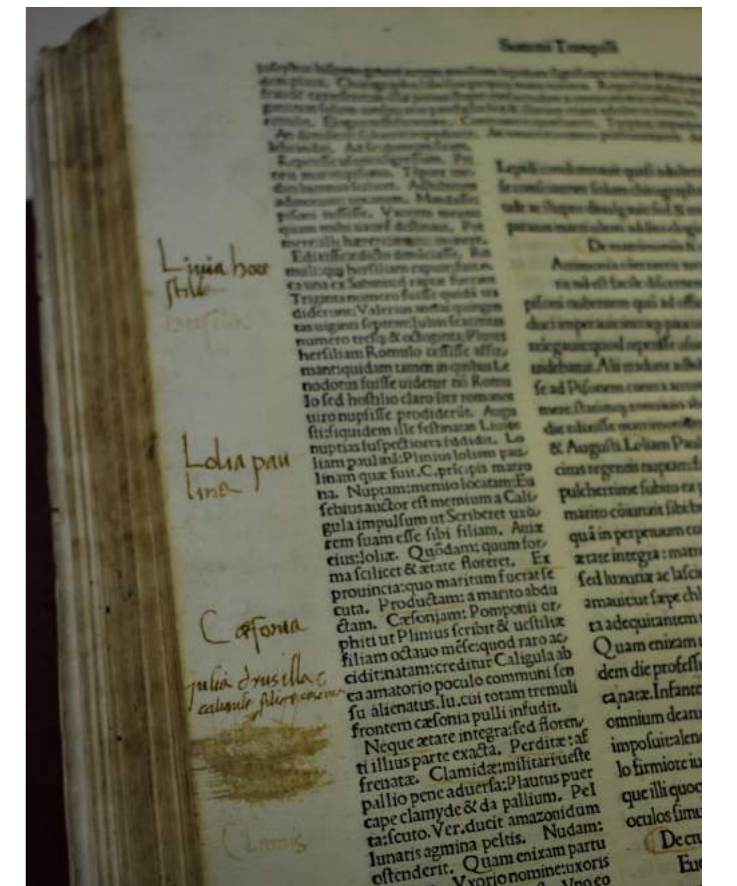
source by Ms Michelle Buhagiar on behalf of Malta Libraries. The postcards featured mostly views of Malta and Gozo while others were of Maltese religious significance. The total cost amounted to €435.

Between March and May 2021, three lots of postcards and other ephemera totalling 603 items in all were purchased from a private



ACQUISITIONS 2021

| ITEM | NUMBER | COST |
|---|--------|-----------|
| 2021 local publications | 211 | €4,978.83 |
| Melitensia and rare books from local sources | 354 | €18,345 |
| 1490 Incunabulum | 1 | €5,000 |
| Foreign publications | 30 | €2,693.49 |
| Postcards and ephemera from local antiquarian | 603 | €435 |



PARTICIPATION IN PRATO EXHIBITION

An exhibition was organised in Prato, Italy, in the context of the activities of the “Paper in Motion” Work Group led by Prof. José María Pérez Fernández of the University of Granada, Spain, which in turn is part of the PIMo COST Action directed by Prof. Giovanni Tarantino of the University of Florence, Italy. The Work Group “Paper in Motion” deals with the circulation of paper throughout Europe and the Mediterranean in all its different dimensions.

It focuses on the use of paper as a medium for the exchange and movement of ideas, information, knowledge, and value. More specifically, the topic of the exhibition centred upon paper-based information and data in the fields of trade and finance and brought together documents from strategic locations between the North of Europe and the Mediterranean. The National Library of Malta participated with digital images from five business or trade-related items from its collections, namely: two 18th-century Bills of Health from the Library Manuscript collection, Vilhena’s *Leggi e costituzioni prammaticali* (1724), a booklet entitled *Tariffa di diverse monete forestiere ridotte in moneta di Malta, con buon ordine e perfezione*, (1758) and, last but not least, the precious 15th-century codex *De l’Arte dela Mercatura, Libri Quattro di Benedetto Cotrugli Napol[etano]* (Libr. Codex XV). The event, consisting of a two-day seminar and the exhibition, was planned to be held in January 2022 at the Istituto Internazionale di Storia Economica Francesco Datini in Prato.

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

France and Malta in the Age of Revolution, 1775-1815

In 2018, the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library (HMML) based in Minnesota, US, embarked on a comprehensive preservation project entitled *France and Malta in the Age of Revolution, 1775-1815* to coincide with the 220th anniversary of the expulsion of the Order of St John of Jerusalem from Malta by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1798. The project aimed to digitise and catalogue records dating from 1775 to 1815 from various sources, among them the National Archives of Malta, the National Archives of France, Heritage Malta and the University of Malta, in order to create a single digital online resource for the study of Malta in the Age of Revolution. The National Library was also approached and

accepted to contribute to this project by placing at the disposal of HMML some material identified and requested for digitisation. A digitisation studio was set up on the National Library premises for the purposes of this project and Mr Stephen Busuttill was engaged by HMML to digitise the selected volumes. An agreement was signed between Dr Daniel Gullo, Director of the Malta Study Center, and Ms Cheryl Falzon, National Librarian and CEO of Malta Libraries. The material selected for this project consisted of sections of the Archives of the Order of Malta pertaining to France, such as the records of the French Langues of the Order, the proofs of nobility of the French knights, the Cabrei (or land surveys) of the commanderies of the Order situated in the three French Langues. Where it was not possible to isolate the French

elements within the individual series of the archives, the choice was determined by the time frame specified in the project, i.e., between 1775 and 1815. The project is envisaged to be completed over a period of five years in the hope that this important period of Maltese history will receive a comprehensive study utilising the full array of sources available in the various repositories in Europe and the US.

Hospitaller Sources Project

Dr Nicholas Morton, one of the general editors of ‘The Military Religious Orders’ series published by Routledge Publishers, UK, proposed starting a sub-series within this series which would be dedicated to publishing edited collections or translations of

particular volumes from the Archives of the Order of Malta and the Library Manuscripts conserved at the National Library. Honoured by a proposal coming from such a prestigious academic publisher, the National Library gladly agreed to collaborate. The editors, Dr Morton, Dr Jochen Burgtorf and Prof. Emanuel Buttigieg acting as associate editor for the NLM volumes published in the series, would compile a list of potential contributors and contact these scholars in order to discuss their prospective involvement as editors/translators of specific individual documents. On request, the National Library would supply digital copies of material for each scholar’s use free of charge for the purposes of preparing translations and/or critical editions for publication by Routledge in The Military Religious Orders series. A Memorandum of Understanding was drawn up and agreed to by both parties. It is



Photo courtesy of Stephen Busuttill and HMML’s Malta Study Center

hoped that the project will find the collaboration of both Maltese and international scholars interested in Hospitaller history.

E-RIHS

In 2019, Prof. JoAnn Cassar, Head of the Department of Conservation and Built Heritage at the University of Malta, invited a number of heritage stakeholders to a meeting at the University to explain the project 'European Research Infrastructure for Heritage Science' (E-RIHS). E-RIHS supports research on heritage interpretation, preservation, documentation and management with the mission of delivering integrated access to expertise, data and technologies through a standardised approach, and integrating world-leading European facilities into an organisation with a clear identity and a strong cohesive role within the global heritage science community. Prof. Cassar's idea was to promote and share expertise and resources among all local heritage entities such as Heritage Malta, the National Archives and Notarial Archives, as well as with international experts in the heritage fields. The invitation to all stakeholders was renewed in September 2020 with another information meeting. However, work in earnest on this project took off in 2021 after Prof. Cassar succeeded in obtaining the approval of the Ministry of National Heritage and Local Government for the participation of Maltese cultural entities in this international research infrastructure. Several one-to-one meetings were held between Malta Libraries officials and Prof. Cassar and Mr Joe Magro Conti, Advisor to the



Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of National Heritage and Local Government, in order to discuss the best ways to work together and the launching of a National Research Agenda for Cultural Heritage. A Memorandum of Understanding was drawn up within the context E-RIHS between the University of Malta, the Ministry of National Heritage and several local cultural entities with the aim of setting up a collaborative structure to work towards research on the common heritage assets and also towards the development of Maltese National Research Agenda for Cultural Heritage, as stipulated in the Cultural Heritage Act.

VISITS

On 16th June 2021, Mr Mario Cutajar, Principal Permanent Secretary, visited the National Library where he was welcomed by Ms Cheryl Falzon, CEO of Malta Libraries and National Librarian, and Ms Joanne Sciberras, Director of the Operations Department. He was escorted to the Reading Room where a display of Government publications from the library's collection had been prepared. The National Library possesses the entire run as from its first publication in 1813 under the title *Gazzetta del Governo di Malta*. For the occasion of this exhibition, the first issue dated 27th October 1813 as well as a recent issue were placed on display. Other government publications included the first Electoral Register dated 1947, Reports of the Workings of Government Departments, circulars and staff lists. Publications by the Department of Information, such as *Il-Gżejjer* and *Ir-Review*, were also included in the exhibition. The Principal Permanent Secretary concluded the visit by presenting Ms Falzon with several current Government publications to be deposited at the National Library, such as *Hidma tas-Servizz Pubbliku*, *Servizz Pubbliku*:

Lejn Bilanċ Aħjar, *Servizz Pubbliku: il-Proċeduri*, *Servizz Pubbliku: Linji Gwida*. A number of copies of these publications were also placed at the disposal of Malta Libraries to be disseminated in the Regional and Branch Libraries in Malta and Gozo.



Photo: DOI - Pierre Sammut



During the year under review, other special visits were organised for the following upon request, as follows:

- 15th June – H.E. Mr Patrick Duffy, Ambassador of Ireland
- 15th June - Prof. Ugur Unal, Director General of the Turkish State Archives
- 16th July – Mr Yang Xiaolong, Director of the Malta-China Cultural Centre, and Bro. Martin Azzopardi SDC
- 24th August – Dr Jonathan Dixon and Ms Sarah Farrant
- 9th October – Mr Alvin Borg and Ms Veronica Velasco Hidalgo
- 16th October - BA Maltese students with Dr Olvin Vella
- 23rd October - BA Maltese students with Dr Olvin Vella

- 30th November – MLIS students with Prof. William Zammit
- 3rd December – Archives for Historians students with Dr Valeria Vanesio
- 7th December - BA History students with Dr Emanuel Buttigieg
- 18th December – BA Maltese students with Dr Olvin Vella

Apart from these, Exclusively Malta, an agency which organises specialised visits for particularly interested small groups, organised two visits to the National Library this year. The visitors, all US citizens, came in groups of not more than four persons and were given a brief exposition of the library and its holdings by a member of the Reading Room staff.



STUDENT PLACEMENTS

During the months of November and December 2021, the National Library accepted Maltese students for their placements. Three MCAST and two Junior College students conducted their Community Work and Systems of Knowledge placements respectively at the library. They were given an all-round experience by being assigned tasks in the Digitisation Studio, in the Conservation Unit as well as in the Reading Room. They scanned books and newspapers, thus speeding up the capturing

phase of the digitisation process. In the Conservation Unit, they learned the basic techniques of professional book cleaning. They also lent a hand in the Reading Room by supervising users while the staff fetched books and newspaper volumes from the depositories. One student successfully completed the task of sorting and arranging extra copies of parish festa magazines by locality.



PUBLIC LIBRARIES NETWORK



Margaret Bugeja
Deputy Librarian – Public Libraries' Network

'PUBLIC LIBRARIES' NETWORK'

The Malta Public Libraries network is made up of 57 libraries comprising the Central Public Library (CPL), the Gozo Central Public Library (GCPL), seven Regional Libraries, 37 Branch Libraries in Malta and another 11 Branch Libraries in Gozo.

The mission of the public libraries is to promote reading habits and support

literacy by providing open and equal access to resources and library services to meet the educational, informational and recreational needs of our community. The Central Public Library continues to outreach its services through the regional and branch libraries around Malta and Gozo.



The main purpose of the public libraries is:

- To foster and strengthen reading habits for informational and recreational purposes;
- To offer support and information assistance to individuals, local enterprises and associations;
- To participate in formal and non-formal education and literacy initiatives;
- To promote Malta Libraries' collections and services;
- To act as a community centre.

The Deputy Librarian Public Libraries is responsible for the day-to-day running of the CPL, GCPL and the Regional Libraries. The departments at the CPL include the Adult and Junior Counters, the Reference Section, the Talking Books Service, the Acquisitions and Collection Management Section as well as the Cataloguing and Classification Section.

Furthermore, the network of public libraries including the branch libraries is continuously maintained and updated, with Regional and Local Councils being involved and advised in the administration of regional and branch libraries according to the standards of best practice regulating such libraries.

READER SERVICES

The public libraries' operations were duly affected by the COVID-19 situation for the second year running. Both Central Public Libraries as well as the Regional and Branch Libraries across Malta and Gozo operated on restricted schedules during the first and second quarter of the year, abiding by the official obligatory conditions and guidelines for libraries issued by the Ministry for Health in 2020. Consequently, libraries remained open to the public for lending purposes only, admitting a limited number of people inside each respective library at a time. Furthermore, no outreach activities were held.

Despite the unforeseen circumstances caused by the pandemic, total book loans in 2021 amounted to 621,202, from 617,820 in 2020, an increase of 0.5 percent. Of these, 580,302 were physical loans from the network of public libraries spread across Malta and Gozo. Forty-four (44) percent from the total physical loans were books in the Maltese language, with fiction being the most popular category.

The top five libraries with the greatest number of physical book loans registered were the Central Public Library in Floriana followed by the regional libraries in Birkirkara and Luqa respectively, the branch library of Nadur and the Mosta Regional Library.

Throughout the year, once again patrons were encouraged to make use of our online services by downloading Libby - the Free Reading App and to log in using their membership card details. Patrons could also log in directly from maltalibraries.overdrive.com to browse and borrow from the selection of eBooks, audiobooks and magazines. eBooks continued to gain popularity among members, amounting to 40,900 loans in 2021.

To commemorate Libraries Day 2021, a collaboration was launched between Malta Libraries and Octavo whereby for the first time digital books in Maltese were offered for free to Malta Libraries members. This was launched during a press conference by the Minister for National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government,

José Herrera, as part of Malta Libraries' celebrations for Libraries Day 2021 which coincides with World Book and Copyright Day. 'It-Teknoloġija bħala muftieħ għal-Letteratura Maltija' – or 'Technology as the key to Maltese Literature' – was this year's chosen theme.

Like the service of Malta Libraries eBooks, Octavo is a digital reading and publishing platform and presents books in the form of an 'oBook'. One of the primary distinguishing features of Octavo's eBooks is the way content navigation is designed, using scrollable pages resembling an online webpage rather than the traditional side-to-side turning of pages. The Octavo app which may be downloaded on any Android or iOS device, or through the web app, also offers numerous features to facilitate accessibility among users of different ages and abilities, together with the option to customise the fonts, font size and background colours of their reading screens. Moreover, eBooks are accessible 24/7 and available offline after being downloaded so that readers can access them from any location even in the absence of a Wi-Fi connection.

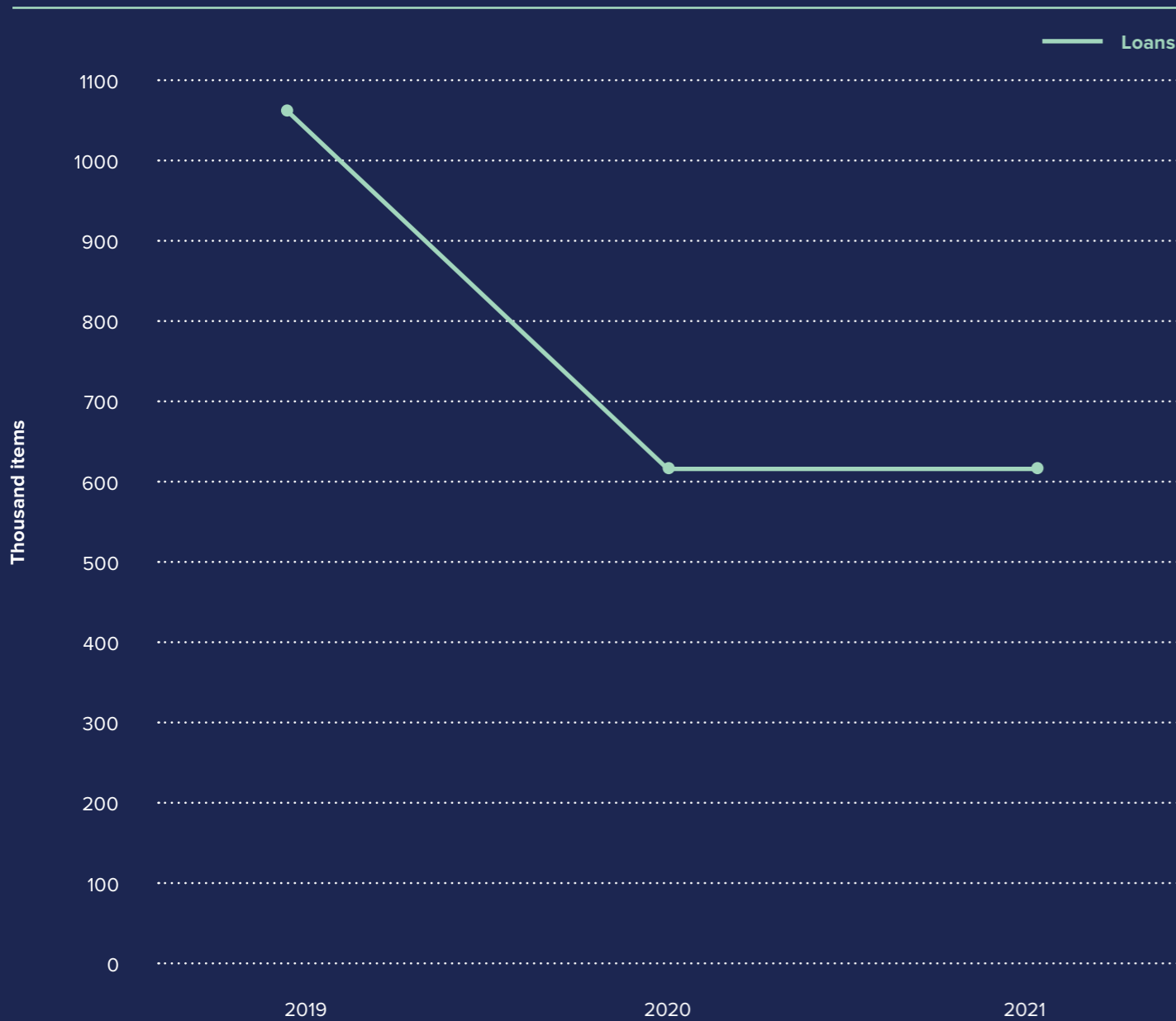
Borrowers are given the possibility to access a collection of material covering a wide range of genres divided into two

categories, one for children and teenagers under the age of 18, and another for adults. Schoolchildren who already used the Octavo service linked to their iLearn account and who are members of Malta Libraries were given the possibility to access more free titles in Maltese.

Through this new service, Malta Libraries and Octavo are also supporting local authors through the Public Lending Rights Act, a remuneration scheme introduced by the National Book Council in 2014 to benefit authors whose books – be they digital or in print form – are available to borrow from the Public Libraries Network across Malta and Gozo.



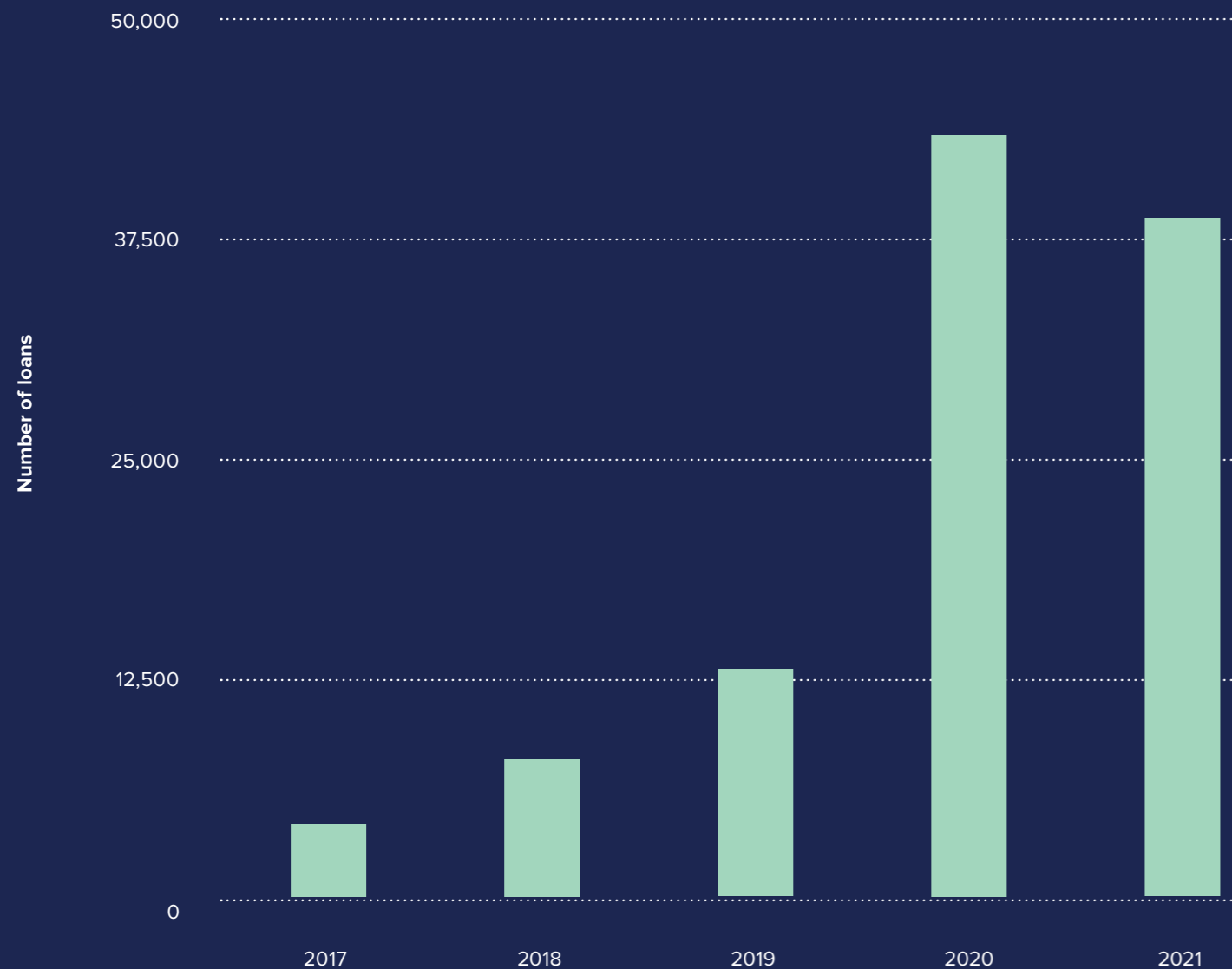
BOOK LOANS



LIBRARY BOOK LOANS 2021



E-BOOK LOANS



In 2021, new members registered with the Public Libraries Network reached 3,435. Members under the age of 18 made up 52% of the new members of the public libraries, with the majority falling between the age group of 0-12 years.

NEW MEMBERS 2021

| Type of Membership | Number of members |
|---|-------------------|
| Adults - 18 and over | |
| Adults ¹ | 1415 |
| Adults residing in Malta without Maltese citizenship ^{1&3} | 9 |
| Adult foreign visitors ^{1&3} | 0 |
| Total | 1424 |
| Juniors - under 18 | |
| 0-12 years | 1614 |
| 13-17 years | 161 |
| 17 years & under with additional adult lending rights ² | 4 |
| 0-12 years residing in Malta without Maltese citizenship ³ | 10 |
| 13-17 years residing in Malta without Maltese citizenship ³ | 1 |
| Junior foreign visitors ³ | 0 |
| Total | 1790 |
| Others | |
| Guests ⁴ | 193 |
| Staff members | 0 |
| Teachers | 28 |
| Total | 221 |
| Total | 3435 |

¹From 2014 all adults have additional junior lending rights

²Require a written permit from a parent or guardian

³Require a Maltese citizen guarantee

⁴Temporary borrower category for new members who enrol themselves online

COLLABORATION WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIRECTORATE AND LOCAL COUNCILS

Several meetings and discussions were held throughout the year with a number of Local Councils to set up standards and upgrade public libraries in order to meet today's community needs. Major projects involved the opening of the new premises of the Kalkara Branch Library and the refurbishment of the Tarxien Branch Library. In both cases, Malta Libraries provided assistance on the new library design and shelving. Furthermore, staff from the Public Libraries Network managed the collection development of the respective libraries, where a weeding process took place to ensure that the library collections were updated. The staff also assisted in the reshelving of both collections.

Since the year 2021 was still predominated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the refurbishment and re-opening of the Kalkara Branch Library took longer than expected, eventually opening to the public in July. The inauguration of the Tarxien Branch Library took place in December.

Works on the full refurbishment of the Qormi Regional Library are underway in consultation with Malta Libraries. Meanwhile the library continued to provide its services from a temporary location at the Qormi Local Council.

In July, a visit was made to the GCPL to advise the newly-appointed COO on the renovation of the library and its collection development. A meeting was also held with the Mayor and Executive Secretary of the Qala Local Council regarding the operations of the Qala Branch Library.

Last year support was provided to three Local Councils: Mtarfa, Xghajra and Marsascala, in the recruitment of a new librarian. So far, two of these local councils, Mtarfa and Marsascala, have been successful in engaging new branch librarians, while the third local council is still in the process of doing so.

The Valletta Branch Library is still closed to the public as from before the COVID-19 outbreak.

In the fourth quarter of 2021, Malta Libraries collaborated with both governmental and private entities, namely Community Malta Agency, HSBC and Bank of Valletta. An agreement was reached between Malta Libraries and Community Malta Agency, the state's entity responsible for administering all Maltese citizenship-related matters. Through this agreement Malta Libraries will benefit from a €10,000 grant, used essentially to increase the number of physical books in the Floriana Central Public Library,

particularly in the Junior Library and in all regional libraries across Malta. Beyond that, these funds will be used to provide a wider selection of physical books in other libraries situated in elderly homes. These include Villa Messina Elderly Home, Roseville Elderly Home, Cospicua Elderly Home and Casa Arkati Elderly Home. The Memorandum of Understanding between the two governmental entities is intended to be signed on Saturday, 15 January, 2022, at the Birkirkara Regional Library.

Malta Libraries and HSBC joined forces to organise a Christmas charitable activity aimed specifically for children living in St Joseph home, Sta Venera. The activity was held on Thursday, 9 December, 2021, at St Joseph Home. The HSBC compliance department has come on board to sponsor the Malta Libraries annual book donation to St Joseph Home. The boys living in St Joseph Home received books tailored to their reading tastes and other books for their shared library, all of which were purchased with money donated from the HSBC Compliance employees who opted for the donation instead of the usual Secret Santa activity. In total, €260 were collected by HSBC for this Christmas charitable campaign.

As a result of the collaboration with Bank of Valletta, Malta Libraries benefited from a large donation of books from the Maltese bank collection. Mr Charles Azzopardi, on behalf of Bank of Valletta, presented the book collection to the National Librarian and CEO of Malta Libraries. Malta Libraries was given an additional monetary donation from the said bank. The presentation of this collaboration was held at the Central Public Library in Floriana on Friday, 10 December, 2021. The total amount of money donated to Malta Libraries amounted to €2,000. These funds are intended to be used to buy new books including eBooks.



TRAINING AND COMPUTERISATION

In the first quarter of 2021, a visit was made to the GCPL to assist and provide advice on new developments in the library, since from 2021 onwards, the GCPL falls under the operation of a new COO. Training on cataloguing and processing of new material was given to present staff.

The Bishop's Conservatory Secondary School requested to join the Library system offered by Malta Libraries. The first meeting was held in the beginning of 2021 to discuss the preparations required so the library material will be ready to be inputted in the system. A number of visits were held to review the collection and

instruct on collection development and weeding policies, and to explain the processing and the inputting of the collection in the system.

During 2021 there were other collaborations with third parties such as state schools, church schools, and Dar Malta in Brussels. They will be joining our automated library system in the near future. In addition, the church schools will have their library material catalogued by the Cataloguing and Classification Section within the Public Libraries Network.

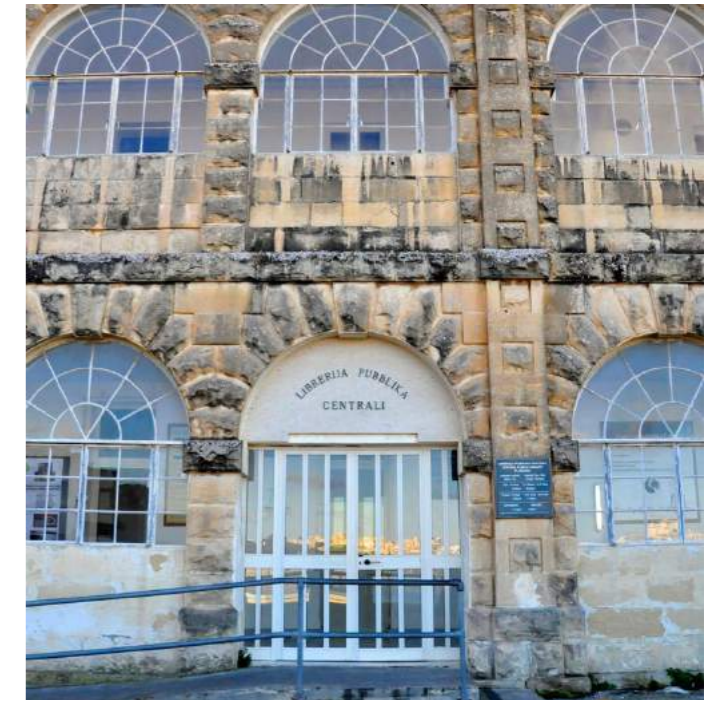


CPL RENOVATION

The works of the Budgetary Measure 203/2020 - Investing in the CPL, intended to create an interactive space to support inclusion and serve as a resource tool to increase literacy, continued. The application for a building permit with the Planning Authority in preparation for the renovation works was submitted and the tender for CPL Adult Library First Stage was issued.

Furthermore, the need to invest in the CPL as a holistic project and to safeguard the safety of staff members and users

was addressed. An architect was appointed and following inspections and studies, a Condition Report on the Roof Structure was prepared in response to a request for technical assistance from the Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects (MTIP). The request related to concerns regarding the roof structure at the first floor of the building at the CPL. Subsequent to tests and inspections, it was recommended that all portions of the roof of the building that are made of the embedded beam system should be replaced in the near future.



REFERENCE SERVICES

The Reference and Melitensia Sections at the CPL welcomes all researchers, students and visitors. The collection comprises reference material for research purposes and a vast collection of Melitensia including reference material published in Malta or by Maltese authors. The Reference Library offers photocopying services in colour both in A4 and A3 formats. Moreover, the Library also sends scans of library material to borrowers' mailboxes upon request. In the year under review, the Reference Section accepted patrons strictly by appointment only. As a result, it welcomed 42 patrons who visited the library in person for research purposes, to study, or consult newspapers and periodicals. Meanwhile another 24 patrons preferred to contact the unit for research assistance either by email or telephone. The Audiovisual Section was kept closed all year to the general public due to the current pandemic.

Despite the disruption, requests for new books were still sent to

the Acquisitions and Collection Management Section to ensure that the resources at the Reference and Melitensia sections remain relevant to library users' needs. New books were added to the collection and daily newspapers were still reviewed daily with any relevant material selected, copied, classified and filed. These are then made available for public research. Through this initiative, aspects of the collection are highlighted and organised. As a silver lining, there was the opportunity to devote more time to sort, file and classify existing material.

Due to the pandemic, the Reference Section was sadly unable to provide guided tours as in previous years, to ensure the safety of employees as well as the general public.

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TALKING BOOKS SECTION

The Talking Books Service (TBS) aims to reach out not only to visually-impaired library members and the housebound but also members with reading difficulties or those who require or prefer the audio format of a book. The Talking Books provided by Malta Libraries are audiobooks recorded on pen drives in MP3 format. They can be played on a computer or a memory stick player. During the year 2021, the TBS catalogue was updated with new audio books by digitising existing books from cassettes to mp3 format.

The number of patrons registered in 2021 with the Talking Books Section were 142, an increase of 2.6% over 2020, despite the number of members reported deceased. These included 110 persons with visual impairments, five people who were housebound, 19 people with other needs, four members who marked all criteria and four other members residing in elderly homes. Talking book loans in the year under review amounted to 2,389, an increase of 22.3% over the year 2020.

Because of the pandemic, the recordings of books by volunteers had to be temporarily halted and safety measures are being taken into consideration so that the recordings can resume again in the near future.

Following the agreement concluded in 2019 with the Accessible Books Consortium (ABC) with the aim of promoting inclusive publishing and increasing the number of books in English and foreign languages, the Section continued to download more audiobooks to be added to the catalogue. New books also included audiobooks downloaded from the Accessible Books Consortium (ABC). The 2019 agreement was ratified in 2021. Meeting and training sessions were held online with the said organisation regarding the new process.



ACQUISITIONS AND COLLECTION MANAGEMENT SECTION

The principal objective of the Acquisitions and Collection Management Section is to develop the library collections within the public libraries network through the purchase of books and eBooks, in a way that fulfils and reflects users' needs and requests. The Section endeavours to keep up to date with the latest developments in the book publishing world – both local and international – and liaises with staff within the Central Public Library together with regional and branch librarians to gather feedback and grant clients' specific reading requests and identify possible gaps in library collections. Additionally, lists of new local book releases and any promotional material are forwarded to all librarians and any book orders directly received are centrally coordinated and recorded by this Section. Every year each regional and branch library is allocated a book budget that mirrors its performance in terms of the number of loans issued during the previous year, spurring librarians to strive for better results.

The Acquisitions and Collection Management Section also focuses on exploring and analysing Malta Libraries' online and eBook catalogues and statistics for the purpose of gauging loan trends, subsequently compiling lists and categorising new acquisitions for promotional and marketing purposes by the Outreach Team on Malta Libraries' social media platforms.

In another year disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2021 the public libraries purchased a total number of 13,486 books and eBooks, spending €85,268.71 in all. This figure is made up of



9,615 books costing €55,489.78, as well as 3,773 eBooks (also comprising audiobooks and magazines) and 98 eBooks (Malta Libraries' new eBook service in Maltese) on which €17,978.93 and €11,800 was spent respectively.

The number of books donated by a diverse mix of various institutions, organisations and Local Councils during 2021 added up to 23,816 titles in total. Thanks to its extraordinary pandemic-related emergency stimulus to the local book industry, €100,000 worth of books was purchased by the National Book Council in the final days of 2020 (and necessarily incorporated into the statistics for 2021), by means of which a total of 11,779 titles

were generously bestowed to the public libraries network. The second largest donation was effected by the National Literacy Agency who donated 2,567 titles (of which 1,077 were children's eBooks), followed by the Local Councils who donated 1,464 titles. Individual authors, Bank of Valletta, and EcoGozo were among the various other donors, also including Aġenzija Żgħażaġh, Komunità Malta and the Principal Permanent Secretary, Mr Mario Cutajar. Apart from books written in English and Maltese, a good number of titles in French, German, Italian and other languages were generously donated to Malta Libraries, adding to the value of its library collection.



CATALOGUING AND CLASSIFICATION SECTION

The Cataloguing and Classification Section is one of the major units of the Central Public Library. Its primary objective is to provide access to the volume of material at the respective public libraries in Malta and Gozo. The main task is to create and maintain a database of bibliographic records for reading material – be it educational, informational, or recreational – in a variety of reading formats. These records enable members to conduct searches for relevant material via the library's online catalogue. The preparation of bibliographic records consists of descriptive cataloguing and subject classification. Malta Libraries employs the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (23rd ed.) system, the Dewey Decimal Classification Subject Headings and the MARC 21 format standards of cataloguing.

Cataloguing tasks are carried out by the central Cataloguing Section at the Central Public Library in Floriana as well as by individual members of staff operating from various libraries. The cataloguing team is made up of 35 members. In 2021, the team catalogued 4,580 items and added 38,529 items to different libraries and elderly homes. Out of these, 11,779 items were donated by The National Book Council, while 1,490 items

were donated by the National Literacy Agency. The Office of the Principal Permanent Secretary within the Office of the Prime Minister donated 307 items, MEUSAC donated 66 items and the Local Councils Department donated over 1,464 books. During 2021, Bank of Valletta donated 649 items. Other donations amounted to 5,497 items as well as 2,564 items donated by various authors and agencies. The Unit also helped with inputting and classifying 929 books that were purchased and used for the library at the Institute for Education Library and over 50 titles for the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

The cataloguing team also merged multiple ISBNs and updated bibliographic records to be in line with the standard cataloguing format in view of the management of the Public Lending Rights (PLR) scheme.

Continuous training is provided so that all cataloguers are familiar with the latest developments in cataloguing and classification. The Section strives to ensure that all acquired material passed on from the Acquisitions Section, is available to users within the shortest possible time.

INTERNSHIPS AND VOLUNTARY WORK

Throughout 2021, the Central Public Library could not physically accommodate students and volunteers mainly due to the ongoing pandemic and mitigation measures restricting the number of people allowed to gather in indoor spaces.

Hence, in compliance with this directive, the management opted to accept a number of remote working volunteers. Four minor Maltese students were given the opportunity to carry out their fifteen to twenty hours of community work at the Central Public library. One of these students attended the Junior College while the others were all MCAST students who were reading for a diploma in IT and a diploma in children's care respectively.

A virtual interview was held on an individual basis with all four volunteers, during which they were given an overview of the

Central Public Library and the Malta Libraries entity in general, as well as brief training on general library tasks and an overview of the main library services. Additionally, during these interviews, several tasks were also assigned to each volunteer. These tasks mainly included book processing, information gathering and preparation for the special shelves at the adult and junior libraries whereby parts of the collection are highlighted every month. Furthermore, the volunteers assisted the Outreach team in preparing for other library events.

Follow-up virtual meetings were frequently held with the volunteers and online support was always provided upon request. All four students managed to complete their online community work placement successfully.

GOZO LIBRARIES



Elizabeth Ebejer
Director – Gozo Libraries

GOZO LIBRARIES

The year 2021 saw the beginning of an exciting new chapter for libraries in Gozo with the appointment of a new Director for Gozo Libraries. Even though the year proved to be a challenging one, it also provided an invaluable opportunity for growth, learning and development. Through the synergy created by the

Gozitan staff, it was possible to create several team-building projects.

Following a detailed evaluation of the Gozo National Library and the Gozo Central Public Library buildings and collections, one of the team's first priorities was renovation and refurbishment.



GOZO NATIONAL LIBRARY

The historic building of the Gozo National Library requires continuous attention. The main hall is roofed with stone slabs resting on beams and covered with a wooden false ceiling. During 2021 an architect and a wood conservator were engaged to carry out a survey and study. During the summer months, intensive investigation was carried out regarding the ceiling and the false ceiling, with the architect submitting the report in late 2021.

The entire building underwent a general risk assessment along with a Fire Risk Assessment. Works indicated from the risk assessment report were accomplished, such as the installation of fire detectors and alarms. Throughout the year, maintenance works were carried out, including the installation of new lights in the main hall as well as the refurbishment of offices.



GOZO CENTRAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Gozo Central Public Library continued to offer its services even during the spring partial lockdown dictated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The priority was to support the library's patrons and since their number inevitably declined once again, it was the appropriate time to think ahead and start a new project.

Renovation works started in late March 2021. They involved an ongoing process from renovating the shelves to creating a corner for in-library corner exhibitions, transforming the dull space to a colourful one for children and adults alike. A vibrant and colourful cut-out mural was installed in the children's area in the main hall of the library.



A special space was created in the adult section where murals were installed, creating a suitable backdrop for the new adult reading area. These murals depict Gozitan life during the late 19th century and 20th century. It is a given that the library team was determined to apply the three Rs of waste management – reduce, reuse, recycle – and so all the old shelves were reused. The goal was to create a space which is not only attractive to patrons but also provides a better working environment for the staff. Six beautiful Ficus trees were donated by the Plant Protection Directorate, furnishing the perfect finishing touch.

In addition, a new reference area was created upstairs at the mezzanine level where one may roam around and browse the shelves, choosing books accordingly. An area for group work and study space was also set up, creating a private and silent haven for students and researchers. We look forward to seeing this place full of students working and engaging in knowledge sharing.

A general risk assessment of the whole library building was carried out, together with a Fire Risk Assessment. Needed works indicated from the risk assessment report were accomplished, including the installation of fire detectors and alarms. Emergency lights were fitted in every hall and at the mezzanine level. Other

works carried out included the putting in place of insect screens and the plastering and painting of walls.

As from 2021 the Gozo Central Public Library team began collaborating and working in tandem with the Malta Libraries Outreach Team. As a result of this, over the last few months Maltese and Gozitan authors were featured on the entity's social media platforms. In July 2021, the first in-library corner exhibition was launched. The first theme chosen for July was "Gozo in Books" whereby a selection of books was chosen and put on display. The topics chosen varied on a monthly basis. During the month of November, apart from the chosen monthly theme, the Gozo Central Public Library joined in the anti-bullying campaign: Be a Buddy Not a Bully, with a selection of friendship-themed books being displayed.

The Library also greatly benefited from a generous donation of books from EcoGozo amounting to 327 books which included audiovisual and dyslexia-friendly books.

The Gozo Book Club during the year under review continued with its meetings and relocated its seminars to open public places while respecting health regulations, as well as online through a Facebook group.

GOZO NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC OFFICE

Another new and exciting venture is the ongoing work and planning process taking place towards the establishment of new Gozo premises for the National Bibliographic Office. In-depth talks and meetings were held with the Director of the National

Bibliographic Office, Mr Oliver Mamo, in order to map the way forward and highlight the importance of establishing a National Bibliographic Office in Gozo.

NATIONAL
BIBLIO-
GRAPHIC
OFFICE

NBO

NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC OFFICE



Oliver Mamo
Director – National Bibliographic Office

The year 2021 proved a difficult year due to the COVID-19 pandemic backdrop. Plans and operational workflows needed continuous tweaking so as to ensure that forecasts were adhered to. The new normal turned out to be more stressful in terms of having several contingency plans accompanying the original plan, so that the pre-agreed quotas and performance indicators were met in a timely manner. Having said this, the NBO continued its

work in improving the national collection's accessibility through its capture of material both under legal deposit legislation and retrospectively whilst making such material accessible through the cataloguing process and the NBO's initiatives in implementing the library catalogue enrichment. The following report details the work carried out by the National Bibliographic Office during the year under review.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC WORK

Work commenced on material received under legal deposit. This current material is mainly in the forms of monographs and periodicals that were published during the period 2020-2021, although some material pre-dates this period.

One of the projects which was continued was that of retrospective cataloguing, specifically that of the retrospective serials collection. As stated in the previous Annual Report, the aim of this project is to have 100,000 issues available on the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) by the end of 2021.

This figure has been reached and work has already commenced on the goal of reaching 200,000 issues in the shortest time possible. Retrospective cataloguing work has also continued on monographs and another 1,000 books were catalogued, thus reaching the 2,000 mark.

The NBO launched the Book Cover Image Project as an additional measure contributing to Malta's efforts in the field of e-Government. The aim of this project was to study, assess and plan how this work is to be carried out and within the process of this pilot project, the NBO would attach a minimum of 5,000 images to existing bibliographic records published in the National Library's Online Public Access Catalogue. The NBO is pleased to announce that the aims of the project have been achieved and the addition of the book cover image has now been integrated as part of its ongoing operations.

NATIONAL LIBRARY (GOZO) CATALOGUING PROJECT

The NBO has embarked on formulating a plan which strengthens its efforts in retrospective cataloguing. This plan details the resources required by the NBO to see the Gozo National Library's collection catalogued. The reasons why Gozo has been chosen for this effort vary in their nature, with the most prominent reason being the size of the collection. Retrospective cataloguing is a task that requires a huge labour force spread over several years. Additionally, the lack of a catalogue in itself hinders proper planning because the exact amount of work required

cannot be properly estimated. However, idly watching the numerous tomes accumulate on shelves in the National Libraries of Valletta and Victoria was never an option. Consequently, it was decided to embark on this project by going for the smaller library. It is believed that this repository can be catalogued within a reasonable time frame, whilst at the same time, bibliographic records of books that reside in both repositories would be made readily available for the Valletta repository. This means that through this project, the amount of work that would be required in the future to catalogue the much larger collection at the Valletta repository would be minimised.

Following all the above planning work carried out during the first half of the year, the actual cataloguing work commenced using only the resources that were readily available to the NBO. Despite the shortage of resources, the NBO catalogued a total of 66,000 newspaper issues by the end of the year and these are now fully accessible to the public through the OPAC.

RECOVERY OF RETROSPECTIVE MATERIAL

Primary recovery exercise

The prevailing pandemic brought changes on how to accrue and scrutinise the material that was donated at intervals to several charity outlets. At one stage this flow was at a complete standstill when their operational hours were curtailed or halted. On retrieving Melitensia publications in all their various formats and taking the precautionary measures, these were first placed for a two-week quarantine period in an isolated location, and afterwards selected through verification with the online Malta Libraries catalogue, in order to determine if the document was already held in both national library repositories. A second copy was held when only one copy was found in each.

All pre-1940s books were held, given that in the pre-war period the malpractice of removing original covers to replace with 'in house' binding deprived the NLM of possessing them as true whole copies. The chosen documents were cleaned from any residue or particulate matter, checked for missing pages, scribbling, enclosures or attachments. Where there was an evident presence of silverfish (*Lepisma saccharina*), the holding was covered in thin tissue paper in order to isolate it from the other documents.

Once the boxes with recovered material were taken to the NBO office in Floriana, these were put directly into quarantine for the second time, even though there had only been one handler since their original recovery.

Printed documents

All approved documents were listed in a spreadsheet that had been created with relative mandatory fields, including bibliographic data and physical status. These included the name of the 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 were merited as poor, fair, very good and mint. References were made in the remarks section for documents that had a specific attribute, such as being signed by the author, of limited circulation or requiring repair or fumigation.

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

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, as well as the removal of third matter irrelevant to the document – such as paper scraps or rusting paper clips, creases on the spine area that signified that the book had been opened and leafed through, stains, moisture or fungal growth, silverfish and so on.

The majority of the 427 books recovered during 2021 were in the Maltese language, followed by those in English. As in previous years, there were also several instances when similar holdings that had been recovered in previous years were encountered in the process and therefore uncollected. These included Eric Brockman's new 1975 hardback edition of *Last Bastion: sketches of the Maltese Islands, 50 sena ilu: 19 ta' Novembru 1994*, published by Bormla Parish Council, a mint Ministry of Education

set of ten 24-pagers about Maltese heritage sites written between 1989 and 1992 in the vernacular by Michael A. Sant, and Nationalist Party monographs and flyers published during the 1987 election campaign.

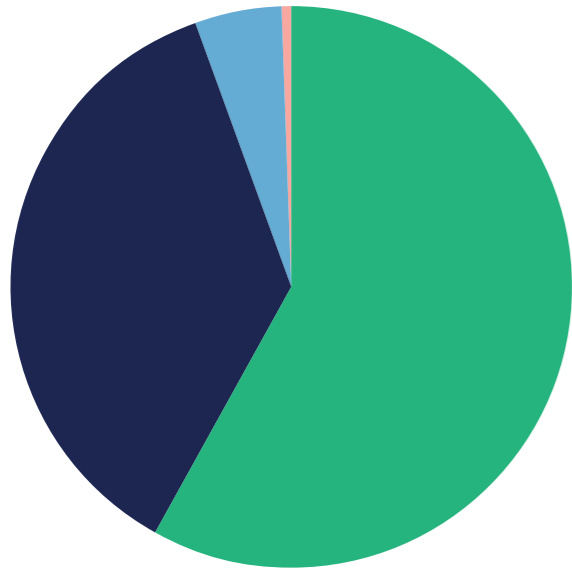
Also recovered were 451 periodicals, including the culinary *Eat & Drink*, *Cibus* and Anton B. Dougall's *Gourmet*, most of the *Bizzilla* issues which had hitherto not been deposited, and back issues of *The Architect* published by Il-Kamra tal-Periti. NBO also recovered 91 audiovisual records, including six VHS cassettes of Herman Bonaci Productions's adaptation of *Il-Madonna ta' Ċoqqa*, and 27 recordings of Nationalist Party meetings during the 1987 electoral campaign with the slogan *Flimkien Ghal Hajja Ahjar*.

573 ephemera documents retrieved included calendars, posters and many recipes of local and international cuisine that were published as supplements with the Sunday newspaper *MaltaToday*, the daily *Tisjir Ghalikom ma' l-Orizzont*, from the 1990s which are now out of print, and local firm Lamb Brand and Scott's Supermarkets.

During 2021 all retrospective Melitensia books that had been recovered since 2017 were plated, stamped and catalogue records created by NBO personnel, with their respective frontispiece and bibliographic data uploaded on the national catalogue. This adds to the 469 new periodical issues and 521 new book publications received by the NBO during 2021.



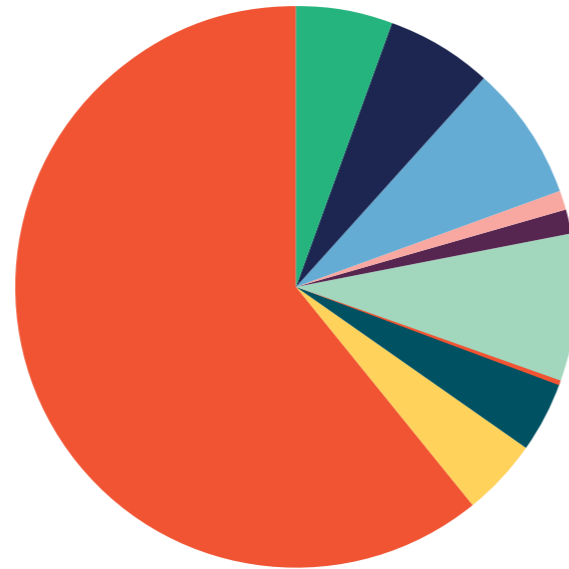
Condition of books recovered



248 mint
156 very good
21 fair
2 poor
427 total

From this pie chart one considers the high amount of 248 mint publications (58.1%), or in 156 very good status (36.5%), that were acquired. These had either been purchased by their owner or received as a gift and remained unread, while others had autographs or dedications. As in the preceding years, the predominant genre of mint publications was of a devotional content or Maltese poetry books, whereas those in very good condition included many children's literature and various non-fiction categories in English, including finance and banking.

Types of records recovered



427 books
451 periodicals
573 ephemera
91 audiovisual (analog)
87 audiovisual (digital)
638 council e-documents
15 ministerial e-annual reports
307 gov entities e-annual reports
316 SCH e-documents
4,504 gov strategic plans & policy papers

427 books, 451 periodicals, 573 ephemera, 91 audiovisual (analog); 87 audiovisual (digital), content analysis and filenaming of 638 council e-documents, 15 ministerial e-annual reports, 307 government entities e-annual reports, 316 SCH e-documents and 4,504 governmental strategic plans, policy papers and their annexes and attachments.

HARVESTING, FILE NAMING AND UPLOADING OF DIGITAL PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

An impressive 6,659 e-documents were harvested, file-named and uploaded during 2021, the highest amount since the NBO's inception. The comprehensive mapping of governmental content creators continued, and from this global amount 6,006 were government records.

The remainder was the result of spreading the harvesting to include national NGOs in the human rights sector, such as those

pertaining to immigrants, auditing and banking institutions including the Big Four (Deloitte, Ernst & Young, KPMG and PWC), the Malta Employers' Association (MEA) position papers, including many relative to the annual budget, and documents published by the Archdiocese of Malta. These only yielded a lean 32 e-documents, including among them the annual reports of the Safeguarding Commission.

INCREASING THE LIST OF GOVERNMENT E-CONTENT CREATORS

Another 307 e-annual government reports were agglomerated with the 988 annual reports harvested and uploaded on our server in 2020. Other than 80 annual reports published in 2021 for the preceding year's workings, another 223 annual reports from

preceding years dating back to pre-2002 were either recovered through dating mining or through the new identification of report-generating units or agencies. 638 were local council documents and 15 were ministerial e-annual reports for 2021.

HARVESTING STRATEGIC NATIONAL PLANS, POLICY DOCUMENTS 2000-2021

In 2021 NBO also harvested the strategic national plans, policy papers, outreach documents published from pre-2000 to date. These records, a total of 4,504 split into 2,010 documents with 2,494 annexes and attachments, are the manifestation of the Government of Malta's operational goals from 1989 onwards and their contents offer a mine of information where one can gauge the successes or shortcomings of successive administrations in attaining their goals. These were all uploaded by year and

content creator on OneDrive, showing the gradual increase of digitally-born documents from 19 in 2000, 73 by 2010 to 168 by 2020.

Throughout 2022 NBO shall continue to evaluate accessed retrospective e-documents created by ministerial agencies according to their content importance and the retention schedule.

Reports including retrospective by subject category harvested and filenamed in 2021

| Subject Category | Total | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 |
|--|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Government authorities, agencies & units retrospective & 2020 annual reports | 307 | 84 | 34 | 21 | 21 | 17 | 20 | 18 | 16 | 11 | 10 | 14 |
| Governmental e-magazines | 139 | 18 | 19 | 16 | 16 | 17 | 17 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Local Council annual administrative reports | 101 | 24 | 60 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Local Council annual audit reports | 50 | 15 | 30 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Local Council annual budget reports | 116 | 41 | 66 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Local Council annual business plans | 62 | 18 | 39 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Local Council quarterly financial reports | 309 | 34 | 202 | 54 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ministerial annual reports for 2020 | 15 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SCH National Inventory | 316 | 316 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Audiovisual harvesting | 87 | 87 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Strategy, national and policy e-documents 1996-2020 | 2010 | 77 | 168 | 157 | 154 | 132 | 144 | 140 | 130 | 106 | 91 | 85 |
| — annexes and attachments to e-documents | 2494 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 55 | 118 | 108 | 141 | 116 | 94 | 107 | 72 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| (Total) | 6006 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Archdiocese of Malta | 32 | 13 | 14 | 13 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 5 |
| Auditing & Banking Institutions | 144 | 14 | 25 | 12 | 9 | 16 | 15 | 14 | 25 | 10 | 10 | 4 |
| Unions, NGOs, policy documents, strategic plans, annual reports & other docs | 184 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| e-newsletters Maltese diaspora, EU 2017 Summit, The Gozo Observer | 271 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| e-books Maltese educational - harvested and awaiting filenaming | 22 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (Total) | 653 | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Total for 2021 | 6659 |
|-----------------------|-------------|

| 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 | 2002 | 2001 | 2000 | pre-2000 | n.d. |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|----------|------|
| 8 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 73 | 58 | 59 | 63 | 47 | 62 | 40 | 35 | 36 | 22 | 19 | 61 | 51 |
| 78 | 87 | 104 | 114 | 821 | 126 | 133 | 0 | 35 | 17 | 0 | 24 | 0 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | |
| 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Harvested Annual Reports of Government Entities 2000 - 2021

| | ABBR. | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 | 2002 | 2001 | 2000 | Remarks |
|---|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--|
| Accountancy Board | ABFME | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | See FSWS, established as agency in 2013. |
| Agenzija Sapport | ASA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Agenzija Żgħażaġh | AZ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Airmalta | AM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Founded in 2016. |
| Arbiter for Financial Services, Office of | OAFS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Arts Council - Malta | ACM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Officially constituted in 2000 as KNPD. |
| Bank of Valletta | BOV | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Established in 2005 as the Benefit Fraud and Investigation Directorate. |
| Benefits Fraud Investigation Department | BFID | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Annual reports back to 1961. |
| Broadcasting Authority - Malta | BA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Back to 1998. |
| Central Bank of Malta | CBM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Commissioner for Animal Welfare | CAW | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability | CRPD | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Commissioner of Voluntary Organisations, Office of | CVO | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Commission on Gender-Based Violence & Domestic Violence | CGBVDV | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Council for Nurses & Midwives - Malta | CNM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Council for Professionals Complementary to Medicine | CPCM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Customs & Excise Department | CED | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Established in 2003 with the Health Care Professions Act. |
| Dental Specialist Accreditation Committee | DSAC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | As per Commission Implementing Decisions (EU) of 2016. |
| Department for Fisheries & Aquaculture | DFA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Directorate for Health Information & Research - Malta | DHIR | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Formerly known as the Disease Surveillance Unit until 2007. |
| — Infectious Disease Prevention & Control Unit | DHIRIDPCU | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Formerly known as the Disease Surveillance Unit until 2007. |
| — Infectious Disease Prevention & Control Unit (Table) | DHIRIDPCU | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Launched in September 2004, with Gozo General Hospital as pilot project. |
| — Injury Data Base - (incl. Gozo General Hospital) | DHIRIDB | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Harvested reports go back to 1998. |
| — National Mortality Registry | DHIRNMR | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Embryo Protection Authority | EPA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Constituted in 2012. |

| | ABBR. | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 | 2002 | 2001 | 2000 | Remarks |
|--|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--|
| Enemalta | EM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Environment Resources Authority | ERA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Reports prior to 2017 published by MEPA. |
| — Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment | WEEE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| EU FUNDS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| — Planning & Priorities Coordination Division | PPCD | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Financial Intelligence Analysis Unit | FI AU | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Foundation for Educational Services | FES | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Foundation Social Welfare Services | FSWS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| — Agency for Community & Therapeutic Services | ACTS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| — Agenzija Appoġġ | AAP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | See FSWS |
| — Agenzija Sedqa | ASE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | See FSWS |
| — Alternative Care | ACARE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| — Child Protection Directorate | CPD | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| — Foundation Social Welfare Services Gozo | FSWSG | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Foundation for Tomorrow's Schools | FTS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Health Care Services Standards Dir. - Haemovigilance | HCSSDH | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | First national haemovigilance report published in 2007. |
| Heritage Malta | HM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Founded in 2003, with retrospective reports back to 1903 published by the Department of Museums. |
| Information & Data Protection Commissioner | IDPC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | As per Regulation (EU) 2016/679. |
| Institute for Education | IFE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jobsplus | JP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Formerly ETC. |
| Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Ktieb | KNK | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | First annual report issued covered 2013. |
| Malta Air Traffic Services | MATS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Malta College of Arts, Science & Technology | MCAST | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Malta Communications Authority | MCA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Malta Competition & Consumer Affairs Authority | MCCAA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Malta Council for Economic & Social Development | MCESD | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Council was founded in 2019. |
| Malta Council for Science & Technology | MCST | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector | MCVS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 | 2002 | 2001 | 2000 | Remarks | |
|---|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|---------|---|
| Malta Crafts Council | MCC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Malta Development Bank | MDB | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Malta Digital Innovation Authority | MDIA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Constituted in 2019. |
| Malta European Union Action Committee | MEUSAC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Established as an agency in 2017. |
| Malta Financial Services Authority | MFSA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Malta Fiscal Advisory Council | MFAC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Malta Freeport Corporation Limited | MFC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Malta Gaming Authority | MGA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Formerly Lotteries & Gaming Authority. |
| Malta Information Technology Agency | MITA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Back to 1998. |
| Malta International Airport | MIA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Malta Libraries | ML | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Founding of Malta Libraries in 2012. |
| Malta Marittima Agency | MM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Established in 2016. |
| Malta Medicines Authority | MMA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Established through the Medicines Act of 2003. |
| Malta Resources Authority | MRA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Malta Statistics Authority | MSA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Malta Stock Exchange | MSE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Back to 1995. |
| Malta Tourism Authority | MTA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| — Beach management annual newsletter | MTABM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| — Blue flag environmental activities | MTABF | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Medical Council of Malta | MCM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Established in 2003 with the Health Care Professions Act. |
| Medical Specialist Accreditation Committee | MSAC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Established in 2003 with the Health Care Professions Act. |
| National Antibiotic Committee | NAC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Established through L.N. 122 of 2008. Strategy made public in 2018. |
| National Archives of Malta | NAM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Established through Act IV of 1990, as NAM in 2005. |
| National Commission for Further & Higher Educ. | NCFHE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| National Commission for the Promotion of Equality | NCPE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| National Development & Social Fund | NDSF | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Established in 2015. |
| National Obstetric Information System | NOIS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Launched in 1999. |
| National Statistics Office | NSO | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Launched in 1999. |
| Occupational Health & Safety Authority | OHSA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | ABBR. | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 | 2002 | 2001 | 2000 | Remarks | |
|--|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|---------|--|
| Office of the Commissioner for Children | CFC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Office of the Commissioner for Mental Health | OCMH | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Established in 2013 through the Mental Health Act. |
| Office of the Principal Permanent Secretary | OPPS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| — Governance. Action on the NAO's annual report | OPPS-N | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | First report published in 2016, covering NAO's 2014 annual report. |
| — Hidma tas-servizz pubbliku fl-ahhar tnax-il xahar | OPPS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| — Mizuri ta' Simplifikazzjoni | OPPS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| — People & Standards Division | PSD | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Division emerged from PAHRO in 2017. |
| — Public Administration Human Resources Office | PAHRO | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| — It-Twettiq tal-Bagitt | OPPS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Office of the Regulator Ind. Investment Programme | ORIP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pharmacy Council - Malta | PCM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Established through the Health Care Professions Act, 2003. |
| Planning & Priorities Co-Ordination Division | PPCD | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| — European Maritime & Fisheries Fund | EMMF | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Formerly the European Fisheries Fund Programme until 2015. |
| Public Service Commission | PSC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Established in 1960 through the Public Service Commission Regulations. |
| Regulator for Energy & Water Services | REWS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Formerly the Malta Resources Authority until 2015. |
| Social Care Standards Authority | SCSA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Founded in 2018. |
| Superintendence of Cultural Heritage | SCH | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Founded in 2003. |
| Transport Malta | TM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Founded in 2010. |
| University of Malta | UM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| — Centre for Labour Studies | UMCLS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Documents back to 1981. |
| — Climate Change & Sustainable Development Institute | UMICCS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Formerly the Institute for Sustainable Development until 2012. |
| — Cottonera Resource Centre | UMCRC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| — Edward de Bono Institute | UMEDI | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| — Faculty of Laws | UMFOL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| — Faculty for Social Wellbeing | UMFSW | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| — Islands & Small States Institute | UMISSI | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| — Systems & Control Engineering, Department of | UMSCE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Water Services Corporation | WSC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

ICTSU REPORT

THE INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT UNIT WITHIN MALTA LIBRARIES



Simon Cutajar
Manager – ICT Support

The ICT Support Unit (ICTSU) is responsible for the management of all ICT-related functions within Malta Libraries including its Library Information System and other ancillary systems. The Unit also contributes directly to the creation of the entity's ICT-related policies and is responsible for their implementation while also monitoring its adherence to general Government ICT-related policies and standards. The ICTSU also supports state and church school libraries and other Government Department libraries that are migrated onto the Malta Libraries' Information System. It also conducts all the required training in the use of the Library Information System to all library counter personnel.

MALTA LIBRARIES' ENTERPRISE APPLICATION

There are currently 106 libraries using the Malta Libraries' Information System (V-smart), and these also include mobile libraries operating within nine elderly homes. The ICTSU is committed to keeping all the respective librarians updated and trained in all the new functionality that is added to the Library Information System. Although all libraries are bound to adhere to Malta Libraries' main library policies, there exist several differing loan circulatory scenarios and policies that are endemic or have been adjusted to suit the library's specific needs. The ICT Support Unit must therefore keep the Library Information System fully functional while keeping in tandem with all the specific configurations and needs of the different libraries engaged with Malta Libraries.

CONSOLIDATION OF ALL LIBRARY IT NETWORKS TO THE CORP DOMAIN

The Public Libraries Network within Malta Libraries is comprised of the two major central libraries in Floriana and in Rabat, Gozo, while another 55 Branch and Regional Libraries are spread throughout Malta and Gozo. The latter are either situated in state school buildings or in Local Councils and other buildings under the responsibility of the same Local Councils. Most of these

libraries were utilising differing commercial connections from the Local Councils and other restricted connections endemic to state schools. All Local Council buildings have, meanwhile, been migrated by the Ministry for Heritage and Local Councils to the Government's standard main CORP network domain and the Branch and Regional Libraries situated in their respective buildings have now also been integrated onto this new network infrastructure. The other 25 Branch Libraries situated in state schools have also been migrated to this domain. This means that currently all the libraries and departments within Malta Libraries share the same Government's standard CORP domain, ensuring that the whole of Malta Libraries can benefit from and make use of the same shared resources throughout the entity while, additionally, facilitating ICT support across it.

OFFICE 365 AND USE OF MICROSOFT TEAMS

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Malta Libraries could only continue its daily internal operations by means of a solid internal communications system that enables the need for personnel to work and share resources remotely and conduct meetings. Before the pandemic Malta Libraries had already implemented MS Office 365 and Teams to the four main libraries and has now continued this implementation by expanding it to all library personnel within its 48 Branch Libraries. All branch library personnel have already attended initiation sessions and basic demonstrations while more detailed training is being planned for the first quarter of 2022.

PUBLIC LENDING RIGHTS

The ICTSU, on behalf of Malta Libraries, undertakes the task 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 effected from libraries within Malta Libraries. A total of four quarterly reports are issued to the Council every year.

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT



Joanne Sciberras
Director Library Operations

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

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 Curatorial Affairs Unit. The Operations Department provides support services to all Directorates and Departments across the entity in areas of business long-term planning, general corporate affairs, human resource management, procurement management, marketing and public relations.

The main roles of the Operations Department include:

- Personnel administration.
- Programme initiation and implementation.

- Direct co-ordination of the preparation of the entity's annual Financial Estimates and administration of the entity's budget.
- Capital Projects.
- 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.



CAPACITY BUILDING AND HR MATTERS

During 2021, the Human Resources Section contributed to the areas of HR planning, capacity building, training and development. The headcount for the entity at the end of 2021 stood at 104. This staff complement includes all employees across all units in Malta and Gozo, together with four RSS employees and two other employees from Engineering Resources Ltd. as can be seen in the Table/Figure below:

Throughout the year, the Operations Department issued the following Internal Calls:

| Internal Calls |
|---|
| Post of Administrative Officer (Finance & Administration) |
| Post of Assistant Administrative Officer |
| Post of Library Officer |
| Post of Manager (Outreach and Cultural Events) |

Staff Complement



Other data regarding HR Matters and family-friendly measures include:

- Retirement (age 62+) of two officers.
- Secondment of another officer.
- Three (3) employees working on reduced hours.
- Twenty-five (25) employees working on telework.
- Fifteen (15) employees on flexitime.
- Three (3) employees on remote working.

The continuous professional development of employees of Malta Libraries remains an important objective of the entity. Notwithstanding the ongoing pandemic, during 2021 Malta Libraries staff still benefited from a number of training programmes, seminars and workshops. The Operations Department itself had a number of officers attending courses both as part of the CPD Programme and also through IPS and at tertiary level as follows:

1. Three (3) senior officers successfully finished the Integrity and Ethics Awareness Learning Programme.
2. An officer completed the ECDL training through IPS.
3. One officer started a UoM Degree in Public Sector Accounting.
4. One officer continued a UoM Degree in Public Management.
5. One officer attended IPS training on Industrial Relations.

With regard to registry files, a total of 37 new files were opened in 2021. Additionally, during the year under review, this unit also provided terms of reply to 36 Parliamentary Questions.

FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT

The Procurement Unit within the Operations Department acts as the coordinating unit for the entity's procurement. Its major role is to ensure that all relevant procurement policies and procedures are adhered to by all the Directorates and Departments within the entity itself. In fact, this section is also responsible for the management process related to the issue and adjudication of tenders, quotations and direct orders.

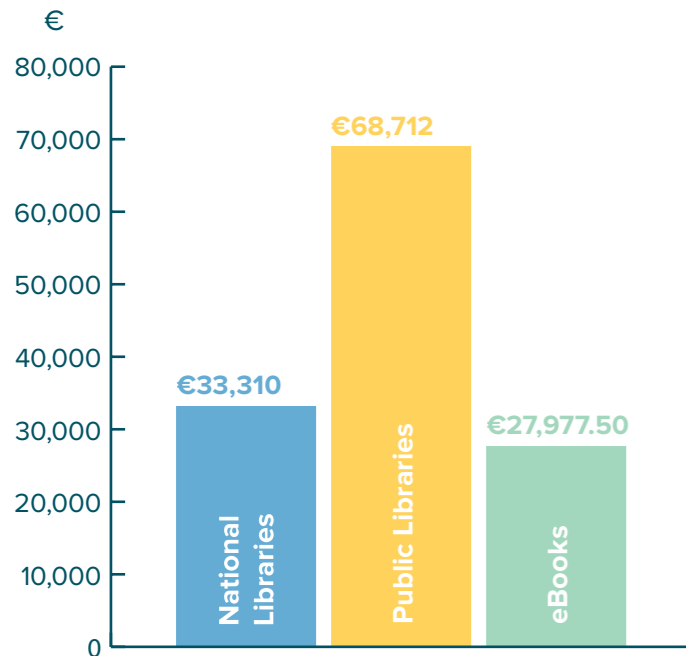
During 2021 the following tender was issued by this section through the respective Sectoral Procurement Division (SPD):

SPD1/2021/060 – Tender for Structural, Plumbing, Mechanical, Electrical and Finishing Works at the Adult Reading Hall, Central Public Library, Floriana.

During the financial year of 2021, Malta Libraries started operating its accounts through the tranche system as approved by the Ministry for Finance, whereby the entity received its annual recurrent budget of €3,400,000 in quarterly tranches of €850,000.

The Procurement Unit was also in charge of administering the sum of €160,000 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.

In the last year, the Department worked on several changes so that the entity could work better and in line with current Financial Regulations and Post-Brexit Measures, including the registration with the VAT Department under Article 12 and the granting of an EOID by the Customs Department.



COVID-19 CHALLENGES AND MEASURES

2021 proved to be another challenging year due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Malta Libraries had already a remote working policy in place as part of its COVID-19 mitigation measures. All employees continued to be supported with the relevant resources needed to ensure the entity's productivity and employee engagement. Additionally, to safeguard the health of employees and patrons when making use of our premises, the Operations Department continued to oversee the implementation and compliance to the relevant procedures, including temperature control and protection facilities at receptions, the ample availability of sanitisation stations, appointment facilities for researchers, as well as quarantine procedures when handling the collections. Expenditure in this regard amounted to €15,000.

OUTREACH AND MARKETING

PUBLIC LECTURES

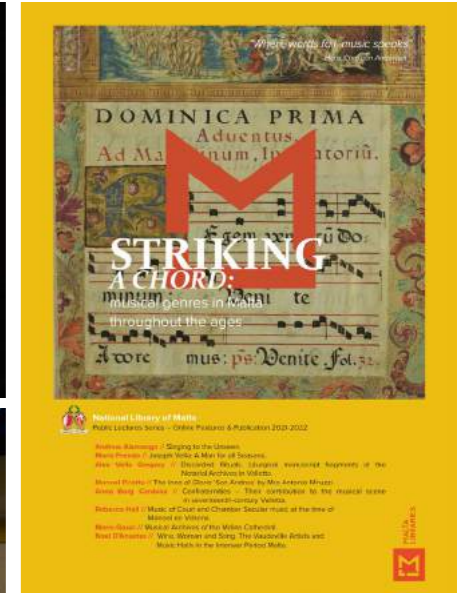
As part of Malta Libraries' aim at projecting the National Library as the centre of knowledge and learning, it was decided in 2018 to organise an annual theme-based series of free public lectures on the grand premises. However, when the pandemic hit, lectures started being offered in the form of filmed documentary features instead, uploaded onto the National Library of Malta's Facebook page and Malta Libraries' YouTube channel for free public dissemination. The on-site format of these lectures meant we were able to set up one-evening-only exhibits complementing the lectures; however, in this new format we strengthened this and other collaborative ties with public and private museums and collectors by filming relevant artworks and documents from outside of the National Library collection.

The initiative has proved to be a great success and in 2021 Malta Libraries produced and published the following lecture features: 'Joyful Jewellery: Jewellery in Carnival and Social Events' with Francesca Balzan and 'The Habit makes the Knight' with Emanuel Buttigieg from the second series entitled 'Power, Costume, Scenography: Making Fashion a Statement in 18th-19th century Malta'; 'Of Markets and Melting-Pots: Commercial Spaces in Early Modern Valletta' with Christian Mifsud from the first series 'Cities, Harbours & Artefacts: Transformations of an Early Modern Landscape' and the first of eight lecture features, 'Joseph Vella: A Man of All Seasons', with Maria Frendo from the third series covering 2021-2022 entitled 'Striking a Chord: Musical Genres in Malta Throughout the Ages'.





The same model was employed in celebrating the theme chosen for 2021. 'It-Triq ta' Malta lejn Gvern Awtonomu: Mitt Sena mis-Self-Government tal-1921' (Malta's Road to Autonomy: 100 Years on from the 1921 Self-Government) was researched and produced in the shape of a two-part online documentary which aired at the end of April 2021. This documentary served as a virtual historic journey culminating in the proclamation of the new Constitution and the first Maltese Parliament and included contributions by the following expert speakers: Charles Dalli, Michael Frendo, Giovanni Bonello, Joe Pirota, Henry Frendo, Godfrey A. Pirota, André DeBattista and Dominic Fenech. The documentary also included a special virtual display in collaboration with the Public Works Department: 'Proposal for the Construction of the First Maltese Parliament Building' and was also aired on Parliament TV later on in the year.





CONFERENCES & BOOK LAUNCHES

On the 25th of November, Midsea Books Ltd chose the National Library of Malta to launch Mevrick Spiteri's publication *The Houses of Baroque Valletta 1650-1750: Property Redevelopment from Records of the Officio delle Case: Socio-economic Reflections on Civil Buildings*. Throughout the year, as some restrictions started being lifted, the National Library of Malta kept its doors open for some controlled and socially-distanced events such as the 'National Reading' organised by the Embassy of Poland in September and an Arts Council Malta ACMLab in December.



EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

The ongoing pandemic meant that most annual appointments of an educational nature had to be put on hold for yet another year. Well-established book clubs, reading groups and board game or educational card-playing clubs were still unable to gather in our libraries across Malta and Gozo and had to find alternative venues or disband temporarily.

That said, Malta Libraries sought to forge new connections and collaborate with other individuals and institutions to offer its resources and its spaces safely for educational purposes. One such collaboration which kicked off in April was with the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra on their project 'L-Investigaturi tal-





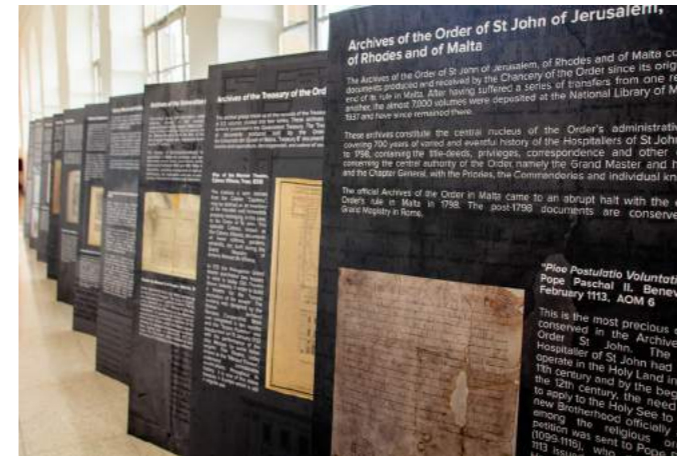
Mużika' (a collaboration with the Ministry for Education). Several episodes in the series were filmed in our network of libraries and the final product was aired on TVM and streamed on the MPO's digital platforms as well. This MPO edutainment series aimed at redefining classical music education had 1.5M views since going live and reached people in 18 different countries.

An in-house initiative in collaboration with poet Miriam Calleja was the series of online creative writing workshops in Maltese and English 'Issellef Idea / Borrow an Idea'. These one-hour workshops inspired by various libraries, library books and objects took place on Zoom and they were free of charge for teens and adults interested to try out or to strengthen their creative writing skills. The workshop programme came to a close by Libraries Week in April 2021.

The National Library of Malta was awarded the COVID-19 SUPPORT FUND for a Creative Project with a maximum grant of €2,500 by CENL (Foundation Conference of European National Librarians) following a project proposal submitted by the entity in August 2021. The funding was granted to cover the research, design, printing and implementation of a digital presentation and engaging info panels designed to raise awareness amongst the general public about the National Collections. The situation brought about by the pandemic meant that our National Library had to limit the number of people entering the building and with this carefully scripted and designed digital presentation and accompanying 11 panels our aim was to bridge the gap and safely venture forth to those who are largely unable, or unaware or, so far, unwilling to come to us themselves. Furthermore, these info panels and presentations – which will end their tour at the National Library itself in 2022 - are intended to raise awareness about the repository of shared cultural heritage housed within our walls and to inspire and encourage more research at the Bibliotheca.



Photos by Elisa Von Brockdorff



FILMING & EVENTS

Malta Libraries continued to open its doors to more collaborations, photoshoots and video shoots in a bid to help other departments, entities, artists, researchers and students channel their messages in a time when the general public needed it most. By making our venues available for filming of features, shoots, film screenings and artistic displays to name but a few – and by ensuring strict COVID-19 preventive measures throughout – Malta Libraries remained dedicated to offering a platform to various local and foreign voices and, by implication, managed to continue presenting its libraries as venues in newer and more creative guises.

2021 saw local as well as foreign TV series production crews use the National Library of Malta as their backdrop for select episodes. Other companies reached out to us in order to film items from our collections to illustrate their educational film projects. To name but a few, the National Library of Malta opened its doors to local productions *Il-Barokk* and *Il-Muxrafija* and foreign productions *Destination Francophonie* (TV5 Monde), LUXE.TV - *Destination Malte* (online channel) and *Freedom – Oltre il Confine* (Mediaset). The Departments of Maltese and of History at the University of Malta, the Akkademja tal-Malti, the Malta Historical Society and Heritage Malta all filmed within the walls of the National Library as well as in some of our public libraries throughout this challenging year.

The year came to a close with a special Capitol Cinema event organised by VCA. Four silent films were screened in the National Library Reading Room over two nights. The films were accompanied by live piano music and attendees were treated to a full multidisciplinary experience inspired by a pretend event

organised in 1929 by the Director of the Malta Public Library (as it was known at the time). Over at the Central Public Library of Malta and the Gozo Central Public Library by-appointment-only fundraising events were held to give people the opportunity to commemorate the year with a festive library photo whilst sharing their book list wishes in the form of letters to Santa. All proceeds from these events went towards collection development in our libraries.



SOCIAL MEDIA & ONLINE PLATFORMS

In the year under review, the entity's online presence remained especially constant and at the fore as the official face of Malta Libraries. Our social media platforms continued to flourish and our official Facebook pages remained an immediate point of contact with our patrons logging in and tackling almost as many queries as our more popular alternatives; i.e. our telephone lines and email service. Our Instagram and Twitter accounts gained even more followers thanks to cross posting of regular and up-to-the-minute content. Stories on Facebook and Instagram made it possible for us to cement the informative yet light-hearted tone adopted in our social media strategies while attracting an even younger and more elusive age group.

Regular posts in 2021 consisted of researched curious facts relating to special anniversaries such as the 'Did you know?' series, the 'Great First Lines' series which introduced books in English and in Maltese which are available to be borrowed from our lending libraries, eBook compilations promoting the newest digital material available to be borrowed via the Libby App, posts to introduce and demystify the newly launched Maltese eBook Service in collaboration with Octavo, and posts relating to the 'Be a Buddy not a Bully' Anti-Bullying Campaign which ran concurrently with a craft initiative via several local libraries.

With a slow and cautious return to on-site events, our yearly celebration of Halloween and the Christmas season were still largely kept online in the form of campaigns which linked books in our collections to activities one was able to carry out from home.

Similarly, the National Library of Malta's social media output strategy for 2021 was designed to continue to give the general public glimpses into its rich collections. Several social media posts series were launched at the beginning of the year with the express purpose of giving the general public out there the opportunity to keep in touch with the place and its purpose at a time when the public was still unable to visit the building in person. With the help of the Curatorial Unit and the Reading Room staff, regular informative posts were published on our social media platforms relating to special anniversaries, to Malta on the brink of the modern age via snippets from the newspapers and periodicals collection, and posts about the Grandmasters of Malta centring around curious and lesser known items in our collection.



MALTA BOOK FESTIVAL

In November, Malta Libraries set up a stand at The Malta Book Festival 2021 - The Bookshop Edition which, for the first time in its history, was held at MFCC, Ta' Qali. This was a special hybrid edition which allowed the book-loving community to safely return to in-person book browsing as well as attend live literary events following the previous year's exclusively virtual experience. This

time round the entity organised animated live reading sessions and assisted stand browsing with elderly people visiting the Festival from several homes around the island together with their carers and nurses, giving them the opportunity to discuss their favourite books with the authors and local publishers who produce them.



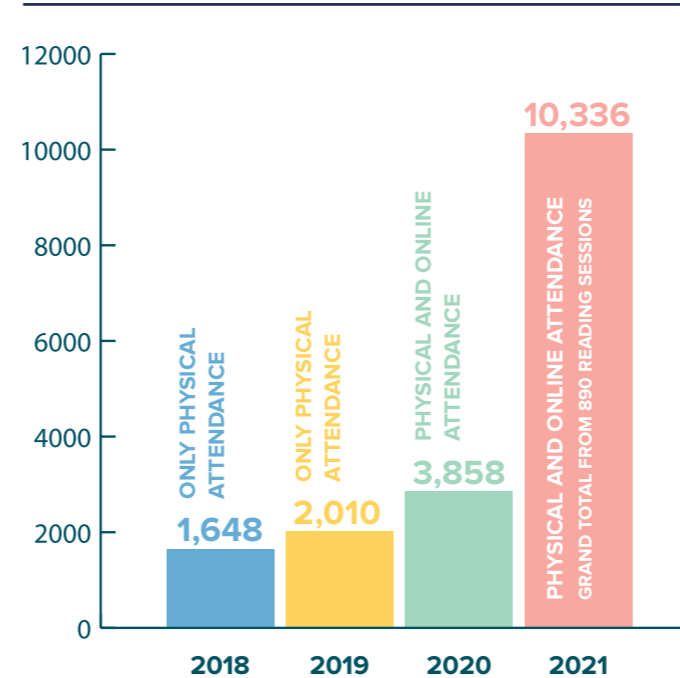
COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

Malta Libraries is aware of the vital role it plays in supporting the well-being of our ageing population. Evidence has shown that while plot details of books might not be recalled, through the rekindling of emotions, reminiscing can be beneficial for those with dementia and other elderly challenges. Malta Libraries responds to differing needs to ensure that members of the community, who cannot easily access libraries owing to age,

health issues or caring responsibilities, can still benefit from a holistic library service.

As part of our commitment to extend our reach beyond the physical library, Malta Libraries, in collaboration with the Active Ageing and Community Care Directorate and with CareMalta, has continued to successfully run regular reading sessions in

Grand total rise in overall attendance



person and online – depending on COVID-19 related restrictions throughout the year – with a total of 25 elderly homes and day care centres. Interactive reading sessions with local authors Trevor Żahra, Rita Saliba, Joseph Debono and Charles Casha were also organised for the elderly's benefit throughout the year. These authors went on to win the Nazzareno Vassallo Award 2021 for their collaborative work with the entity. The online reading sessions service was also extended to the Administrators of said homes and daycare centres on sporadic occasions throughout the year.

The pandemic proved how on-site libraries in elderly homes have become a real necessity. To this end Malta Libraires set up another three new libraries in state as well as privately-run elderly homes: at Dar il-Madonna tal-Isperanza, Mosta, in February, at Villa Messina in April and at Mtarfa Home in May. These elderly-home libraries follow the same Malta Libraries model of a lending library and can be accessed using the same membership card. The residents as well as staff members at the respective homes were enrolled as library members and encouraged to start using their on-site library service regularly. These libraries are continuously furnished with brand-new books purchased by Malta Libraries, the Welfare Committee and CareMalta. Additional book donations for these libraries in 2021 came from Aġenzija Saghtar and author Raymond Zammit.



CURATORIAL AFFAIRS UNIT

Fulfilling curatorial responsibilities within an entity abounding in cultural heritage treasures is, as one would imagine, both enticing and very challenging. The work of the Curatorial Affairs Unit, focusing primarily on the National Library and its historical collections, is expectedly varied in nature and it entails performing a wide spectrum of duties, all aiming at the preservation, conservation and dissemination of the institution's cultural assets. In 2021, the Curatorial Affairs Unit, within the Library Operations Directorate, worked on several projects and initiatives addressing issues that fall within its remit.

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY PREMISES

Attempts continued to be made in addressing issues in line with the "NLM Status Report - PROJECT REQUISITE" presented to the Ministry for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government in October 2020, among which are those related to the requirement of additional premises. The existing premises are exhausted in terms of space and the Library is in a critical situation in terms of duly accommodating its ever-increasing collections and providing related services. Communication, very often including the writing and presentation of detailed reports, continued with the Lands Authority and the Ministry for the National Heritage in the entity's efforts to acquire additional premises.

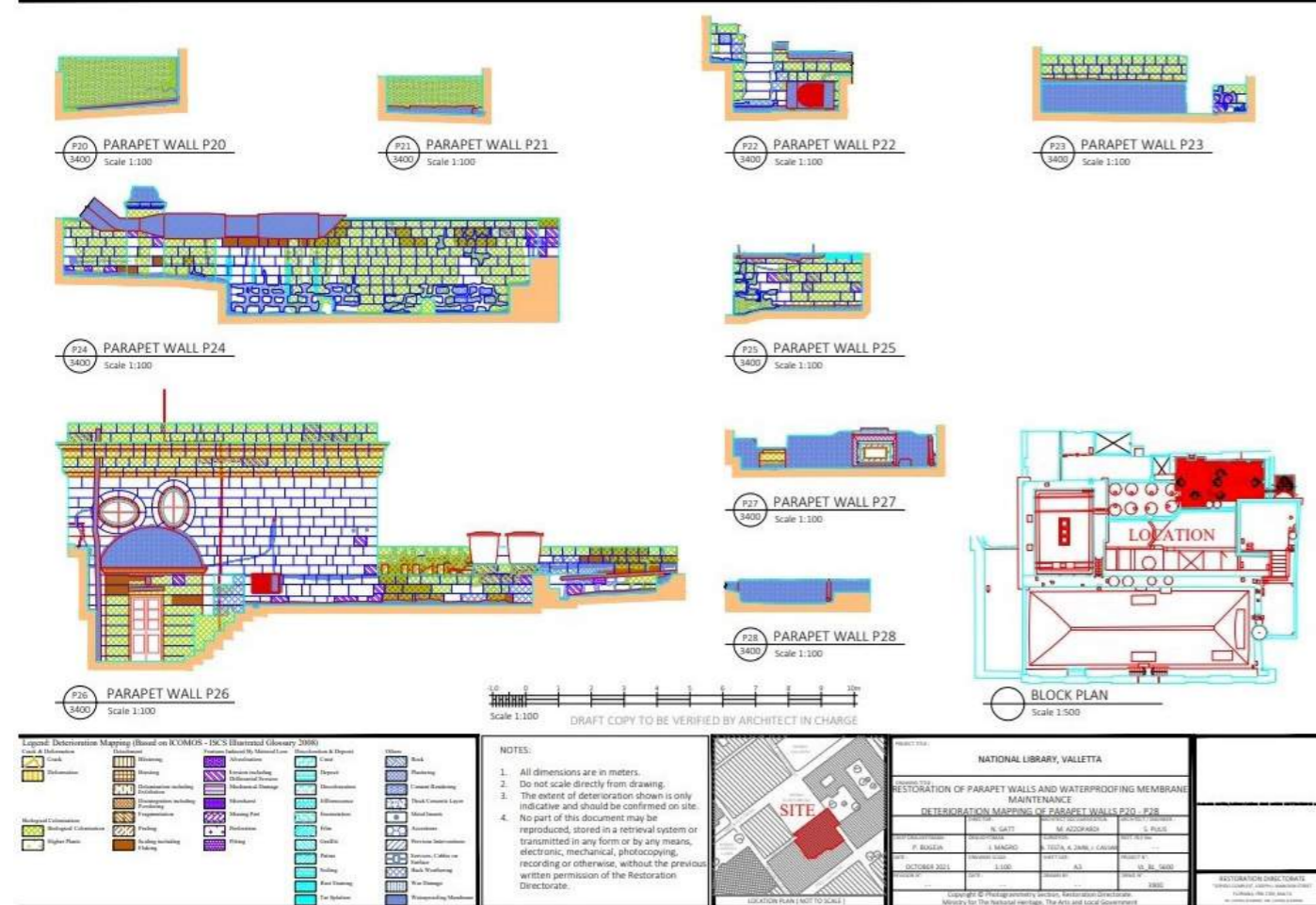
A holistic view has been adopted in terms of the restoration and maintenance of the National Library premises in collaboration with the Restoration Directorate. Works started with a deterioration mapping survey of the roof of the Library, as the first requirement



that would eventually lead to its full restoration, including the installation of new waterproofing membrane and the restoration of all the parapet walls.

In the meantime, consultation and preparatory work on other

projects was also carried out. Works on other pending projects were continued, including those on the installation of a passenger lift at the Library. Works on the building of a shaft to house the actual lift were completed this year, while the installation of the lift itself is expected to be undertaken in 2022.



CONSERVATION & PRESERVATION OF COLLECTIONS

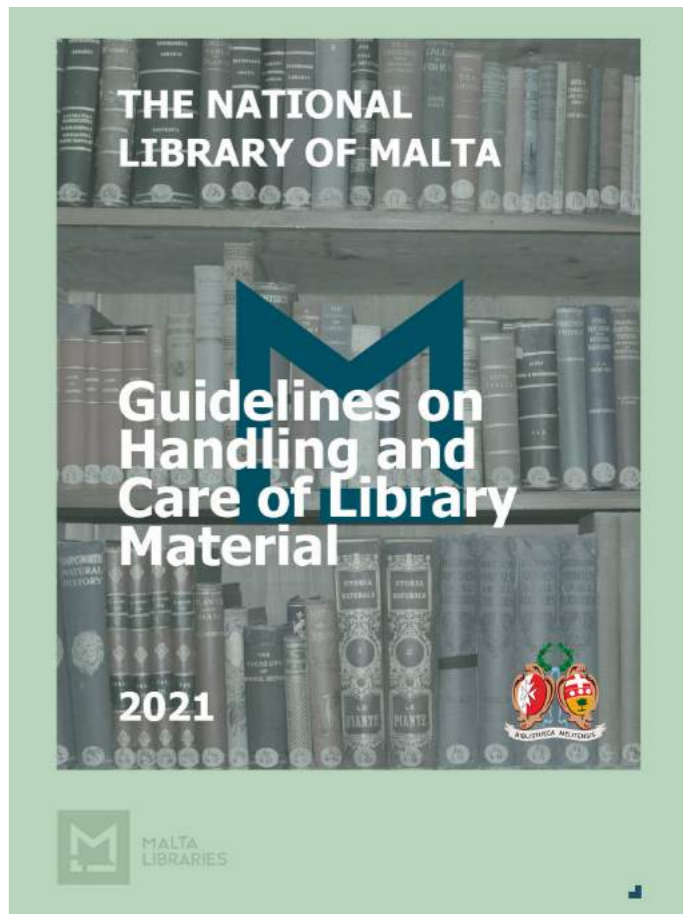
Following the establishment of the “Policy for Preservation and Collections Care” at the National Library in 2020, implementation of some of its basic principles was commenced, particularly those concerning handling of library material. Detailed guidelines on the proper handling of material aimed at Library staff were prepared, as well as a different set of guidelines intended for researchers.

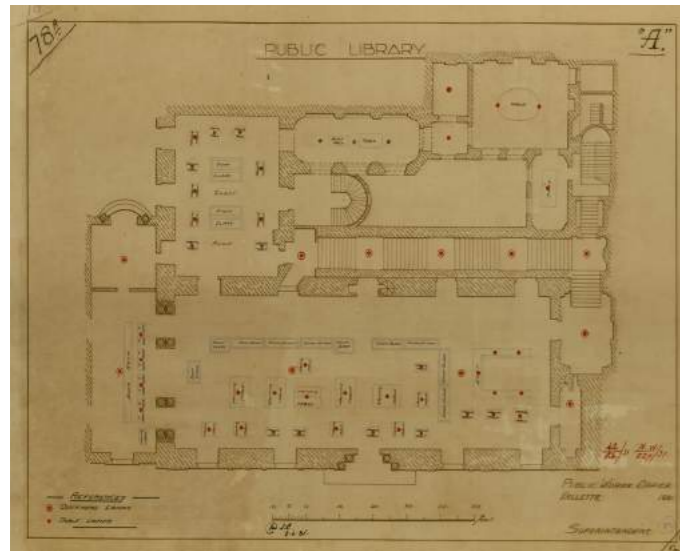
In 2021, the focus was largely based on preventive conservation, rather than the actual restoration of library material. This included protective binding of documents, the manufacture of customised boxes for preserving items that are of higher significant value, as well as regular book cleaning, all carried out by the Conservation Unit. The disinfestation process with anoxia treatment supervised by the same Unit was also continued.

Other preventive conservation measures dealt largely with the maintenance of parts of the National Library building. The “Policy for Preservation and Collections Care” does not only deal with the direct preservation of books, documents, and other library material, but appropriately also takes into consideration the importance of the proper maintenance of the building that houses the national collection, in providing it with a safe and secure environment. It is also in conjunction with the objectives of the Policy that the holistic approach for the restoration and preservation of the National Library building is being addressed.

THE BIBLIOTHECA HISTORY RESEARCH PROJECT

Launched in 2020, this Project aims at conducting an extensive and in-depth study relating to the history of the National Library building and its use. This year, research was mainly conducted through primary archival sources, located at the National Library, the National Archives of Malta and also at the Archives of the Public Works Department. In addition, a collection of secondary sources continued to be compiled and examined.





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 Office of the Collector
 11 October 1826

Sir,

I have the honor to state for the information
 of His Excellency the Governor that the kitchen attached to
 the apartment of the Librarian in the Government Library,
 in its present situation is very inconvenient to the Building, and
 has with to submit a report of the Office recommending
 its removal to another place, the expense attending which
 alterations will not exceed L. 6. 15. 4. 1/2 -

Should His Excellency approve of the work
 being done I have to request that orders to this effect may be
 given to the Work Department

I have the honor to
 remain Sir, your obedient
 Collector

THE POSTCARD COLLECTION

Visual material is another significant source for obtaining information and acquiring knowledge. What started off as an initiative to collect postcards featuring the National Library building, both with the aim of observing visual sources pertaining to the Library, as well as enhancing its collections, developed into the formation of a Postcard Collection as part of the National Library's holdings.

A total of 479 postcards was purchased by the National Library from a local collector. The postcards are all related to the Maltese Islands, including various subjects besides landmarks and panoramas. The collection includes a significant number of early postcards from the late nineteenth century, several dating to the early twentieth century, as well as others from later decades. With the kind assistance of the Deputy Librarian of the National Library, Ms Maroma Camilleri, an inventory system was created for the Postcard Collection.



SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT RESEARCH

During 2021, the Curatorial Affairs Unit continued to provide content for dissemination on Malta Libraries' social media, including a series of posts featuring a distinctive set of archaeological drawings from the National Library's collections executed by Charles Frederick de Brocktorff. These drawings, preserved in what is known as the "Beaufoy Album", are a set of watercolours depicting the first archaeological excavations and clearance works conducted at Ġgantija and the Xagħra Stone Circle in the first half of the nineteenth century.

Another set of posts for which content was provided was that entitled "Science, Innovation and Modernisation". This series of monthly posts, inspired primarily from the Newspaper Collection, highlighted curious and noteworthy endeavours in Malta's transition into the Modern Period.

Another continuous series is that titled "On this day", featuring, as the name implies, important or interesting events that would have occurred in the past on the respective dates.



REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31st December 2020
Excerpts from the Audited Accounts

Malta Libraries Management responsibilities for the year ended 31st December 2020

The Malta Libraries Act requires the National Librarian to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the Corporate Body and of the surplus or deficit of the entity for that year. In preparing these the management team are required to:

- adopt the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Corporate Body will continue in the business;
- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- account for income and charges relating to the accounting period on the accruals basis;
- value separately the components of asset and liability items; and
- report comparative figures corresponding to those of the preceding accountant period.

The National Librarian is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and to enable him to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Malta Libraries Act (Cap. 511) enacted in Malta. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining such internal control as the management team determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. The management is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Corporate Body and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Independent auditors' report to the shareholders of the company

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Malta Libraries, set out on pages 3 to 16 which comprise the balance sheet as at 31st December 2020, and the income statement, statement of changes in reserves and cash flows statement for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Corporate Body as at 31st December 2020, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Accountancy Profession (General Accounting Principles for Small and Medium-sized Entities) Regulations, 2015 and the Schedule accompanying and forming an integral part of those Regulations (GAPSME).

Basis for opinion

We have conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibility under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Body Corporate in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in accordance with the Accountancy Profession (Code of Ethics for Warrant Holders) Directive issued in terms of the Accountancy Profession Act (Cap. 281) in Malta, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of the Management

The National Librarian is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance

with GAPSME, and for such internal control at the National Librarians that is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the National Librarian is responsible for assessing the Body Corporate's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Body Corporate or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions,

misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Body Corporate's internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Other matter

Malta Libraries implemented the Accountancy Profession (General Accounting Principals for Small and Medium-Sized Entities) Regulations, 2015 and the Schedule accompanying and forming an integral part of those Regulations ("GAPSME") as from 1st January 2018. Previously the entity kept the accounts on a cash basis whilst as from the 1st January 2018 the accounts were prepared on an accruals basis.

To provide a true and fair view of the current financial period a prior year adjustment was made for any accrued or prepaid expenses. However no adjustment was made for any Heritage Assets or Property, Plant and Equipment the Corporate Body might have owned previously. In view of this fact the Balance Sheet of the Corporate Body is understated by these assets.

Christian Zammit

For and on behalf of

Steven Galea and Associates Limited
Certified Public Accountants

37, St. Mary Street Naxxar NXR 1406 Malta
Date: 1st April 2022

Income statement for the year ended 31st December 2020

| | Notes | 2020 € | 2019 € |
|---|----------|--------------------|---------------|
| Revenue | 3 | 3,262,702 | 3,052,805 |
| Cost of sales | | - | - |
| Net Revenue | | 3,262,702 | 3,052,805 |
| Administrative expenses | | (3,409,732) | (3,257,909) |
| Other operating income | 4 | 126,152 | 89,387 |
| Operating deficit | | (20,878) | (115,717) |
| Other interest receivable | | 6 | 96 |
| Deficit before tax | | (20,872) | (115,621) |
| Income tax | 6 | (1) | (14) |
| Loss for the year | | (20,873) | 115,635 |
| Accumulated (loss)/profit brought forward | | (39,027) | 76,608 |
| Accumulated (loss) carried forward | | (59,900) | (39,027) |

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2020

| | Notes | 2020 € | 2019 € |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| ASSETS | | | |
| Non-current assets | | | |
| Heritage assets | 7 | 69,996 | 19,897 |
| Property, plant and equipment | 8 | 253,206 | 241,976 |
| | | 323,202 | 261,873 |
| Current assets | | | |
| Trade and other receivables | 10 | 55,056 | 28,744 |
| Cash and bank balances | | 250,817 | 208,984 |
| | | 305,873 | 237,728 |
| Total assets | | 629,075 | 499,601 |
| EQUITY AND LIABILITIES | | | |
| Reserves | | | |
| Capital expenditure fund | | 200,000 | 200,000 |
| Accumulated fund | | (59,900) | (39,027) |
| Total equity | | 140,100 | 160,973 |
| Non-current liabilities | | | |
| Deferred income | | 203,446 | 117,442 |
| Current liabilities | | | |
| Trade and other payables | 11 | 285,529 | 221,186 |
| Total equity and liabilities | | 629,075 | 499,601 |

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 1st April 2022 and signed on its behalf by:
Cheryl Falzon (National Librarian and CEO) and **Joanne Sciberras** (Director Library Operations)

Income statement for the year ended 31st December 2021 (UNAUDITED)

For: January 2021 To: December 2021

Income Statement

| Account | Actual |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Other Income | |
| Recurrent Vote | 3,450,000 |
| Additional Vote | 0 |
| Other Income | 43,018 |
| Total | 3,493,018 |

Other Grants Received **147,304**

| Expenditure | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 50100 (SALARIES) | 2,583,712 |
| 60100 (UTILITIES) | 58,520 |
| 60200 (MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES) | 82,132 |
| 60300 (REPAIR AND UPKEEP) | 45,637 |
| 60400 (RENTS) | 44,475 |
| 60600 (OFFICE SERVICES) | 23,190 |
| 60700 (TRANSPORT) | 15,983 |
| 60900 (INFORMATION SERVICES) | 3,743 |
| 61000 (CONTRACTUAL SERVICES) | 215,975 |
| 61100 (PROFESSIONAL SERVICES) | 324,701 |
| 61200 (TRAINING) | 475 |
| 61300 (HOSPITALITY) | 0 |
| 61400 (INCIDENTAL EXPENSES) | 743 |
| 9998 (Other Expenses) | 7,434 |
| Depreciation | 173,894 |
| Total | 3,580,614 |

(Deficit)/Surplus **59,708**

Retained Deficit brought forward **(59,901)**

Accumulated (Deficit)/Surplus carried forward **(193)**



