



MALTA
LIBRARIES



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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ANNUAL
REPORT
2022

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MALTA
LIBRARIES

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Malta Libraries

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MISSION STATEMENT

“ 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

CHERYL
FALZON
NATIONAL
LIBRARIAN
& CEO



FOREWORD FROM THE CEO

With Covid restrictions slowly lifting throughout 2022, slowly but surely, Malta Libraries began increasing its flow of events and by the end of the year was happy to report a positive rise in physical traffic in our libraries. This was also evident in our key performance indicators which illustrate a rise in the number of researchers physically visiting the National Library and an increase in the overall circulation of library material in public libraries.

Another milestone for Malta Libraries was the launch of the Iguana Library App which was part of the celebrations of Libraries Week relating to the theme 'LIBRARIES – with you, everywhere! / IL-LIBRERJI – mieghek, kullimkien!'. This App incorporates all the functionalities and user activities already available on the portal where public and school Libraries are concerned, as well as new functionalities such as: the exact map location for each public library and its opening hours, push notifications, and a 'Scan ISBN' function which checks availability and location of books across our network of libraries.

Throughout 2022, the National Library was busier than ever with quite a good number of official visits to the National Library including by H.E. Dr George Vella, President of Malta, Dr Owen Bonnici, Minister for National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government, as well as several Ambassadors residing in Malta. Additionally, the National Library hosted several public lectures both online as well as on site. 2022 saw the return of the Mixjet il-Malti exhibit and during summer the National Library also hosted an interesting educational programme for children, including discussions and hands-on activities on subjects ranging from Maltese lace and maps to book binding. Finally, the National Library also managed to host the exhibition 'Sunetti: Minn Fomm u Qalb il-Poplu', which was in the works since 2020.

Similarly, the public libraries started to regain their popularity following two pandemic years which recorded a noticeable drop in the physical use of library services. This year proved pivotal in the transition from mostly online to more in-person activities. This is also reflected in the increase in the number of physical books circulated during the year – registering an increase of 6.2 per cent. The top libraries that reported the highest book loan statistics were the Central Public Library

in Floriana followed by the regional libraries in Birkirkara, Luqa and Mosta respectively, and the Gozo Central Public Library.

One serendipitous consequence of the pandemic has been the major leap in popularity regarding Malta Libraries' digital services, specifically the loans of eBooks, audiobooks and magazines available through Libby – the Free Reading App. This strong upward trend continued in 2022. Suffice it to say that over the last four years, the loans of eBooks increased from 8,200 in 2018, to 35,677 in 2022. Octavo, our other digital reading and publishing platform which presents books in Maltese in the form of an eBook, also remained in demand.

The National Bibliographic Office continued its indexing and cataloguing work on material received under legal deposit. The material was mainly in the form of monographs and periodicals that were published during the period 2021-2022. Nevertheless, the NBO continued working on retrospective cataloguing, specifically on its serials collection. The Office successfully reached its aim of reaching 100,000 issues available on the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) by the end of 2022. The retrospective cataloguing of monographs also continued, and another 1,000 books were catalogued, thus reaching a total of 3,000 records. Following the cover image project that was initiated in 2021, the NBO succeeded in upholding its commitments by duplicating the achievements of the preceding year. Consequently, a total of 10,800 bibliographic records have been completed with their respective cover image.

2022 was another successful year for the entity and to celebrate our achievements, Malta Libraries hosted a collective Teambuilding and Wellbeing event which also incorporated a 30 Years of Service Award to 30 of our employees. Malta Libraries is committed to continue organising such events and putting its employees' wellbeing on the workplace central to its agenda. These accomplishments would not have been possible without the great team effort at Malta Libraries which continues to give us energy to aim for better prospects.

**MAROMA
CAMILLERI**
DEPUTY
LIBRARIAN,
NATIONAL
LIBRARY OF
MALTA



NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MALTA

INTRODUCTION

This report aims to illustrate the work carried out during 2022 within the sections that fall under the responsibility of the Deputy Librarian at the National Library. The various sections performed their tasks in a smooth and coordinated workflow, focusing on organisational objectives such as improved performance, sharing of experiences through regular meetings, and innovation. It was important to set priorities and to be motivated in order to enhance daily performance. This translated into more effective communication with patrons and a markedly improved service, especially where the Reading Room staff was concerned. Although pandemic restrictions were lifted at the beginning of the year, the system of acceding to the Reading Room by appointment was maintained following the positive feedback received from most researchers since service was more efficient while waiting time was reduced, since the material was prepared beforehand. Researchers also reported a more positive library experience since the service was more personalised. Still, however, researchers turning up without an appointment were invariably always accepted unless the Reading Room was full to capacity, which was quite a rare occurrence.

During the year under review, several important improvements were implemented in the Reading Room, thanks to the initiative of Reading Room staff, in consultation with the Curatorial Affairs and Conservation Units and with the collaboration of the Maintenance Section of Malta Libraries. At the beginning of the year, the researchers' desks were fitted with power units, each consisting of four socket outlets and two USB ports. This has enabled researchers to use their electronic devices with more ease and comfort. Each desk was also supplied with the set of rules both in Maltese and English, compiled by the Curatorial Affairs Unit, instructing researchers in the care and correct handling of National Library material. The Maintenance Section also manufactured an extra desk in the Reading Room, identical to the seven antique existent ones, for the sake of symmetry in the Reading area and above all to accommodate more users. The antique octagonal desks previously used in the Reading area were removed and designated for better use

as display tables in the events area. Acrylic lids have been ordered as protection for the items displayed on the tables and are scheduled to arrive in 2023.

Moreover, the new newspaper rack was fitted with ten new poles manufactured by the Maintenance Section, identical to and much cheaper than the ten existent ones which had been purchased from abroad. The cabinets containing flat works as well as the sheaf catalogue shelves had been previously placed on platforms with wheels in order to be shifted in case of necessity, as in the eventuality of events in the Reading Room. The wheels, however, were too small to carry the weight, both in the case of the metal cabinets and also of the wooden shelves. Thus, new sets of heavy-duty wheels were bought to replace the old ones. Once the wheels were fitted, the platforms could carry a maximum of 600 kg. Besides now being strong enough to bear considerable weight, they are easier to move around without too much effort and fatigue for the staff. Another proposal concerned the area which has been cleared to accommodate the passenger lift and which now contains empty shelves. The plan is to fill the shelves with the extra sets of Government Gazettes, among which the set brought over from the Public Registry. The shelves will be fitted with lockable doors with chicken-wire panels, like the ones in the Reading Room. The doors are currently being manufactured by the Maintenance Section of Malta Libraries.

The year under review saw the return of drop-in visitors to the library. During the past two years, visitors were only accepted against an appointment. Although the numbers this year did not reach pre-Covid levels, the total was not a negligible one and the visitors hailed from the most remote parts of the world. Many of them engaged with the Reading Room staff by asking questions about the library's history and collections. They also visited the exhibitions mounted in the Reading Room and some purchased Malta Libraries publications.

Another item that made a comeback in 2022 were the public lectures. By the first half of the year, the series of online features on the theme of music entitled 'STRIKING A CHORD: Musical Genres in Malta Throughout the Ages' was completed. This consisted of a series of eight features

which had kicked off in November 2021. It was possible to produce these features thanks to the participation of eight historians who delivered presentations of around twenty minutes each on a subject related to the main theme. They were filmed and uploaded on the Library's social media, proving to be a great success among the public. As of November 2022, a new series, this time on the theme of art, was launched, now back in the form of public lectures. Entitled 'CREATED TO INSPIRE: 500 Years of Artistic Splendour in Malta', the current talks are presented by established art historians and experts in the subject and will continue until June 2023. Meanwhile, November 2022 saw the publication of the proceedings of the second series of public lectures held in 2019-2020 entitled *Power, costume & scenography: making fashion a statement in 18th-19th century Malta*.

READERS' SERVICES

The Readers' Services Unit within the National Library is manned by three Senior Assistant Librarians. The Unit serves those users who conduct their research by personally calling at the library as well as those who prefer to do so remotely, via email or social media. The tasks of the Reading Room staff include the registration of users and any assistance that these, especially new ones, might require in

the course of their research. The librarians do their utmost to guide users to home in on their topic of research employing the minimum time possible by pointing them to the proper sources and finding aids as well as recommending titles of books for consultation. They also handle payments for sales of National Library publications and for digital services provided by the library.

The year under review registered a total of 2,069 persons – an average of seven persons per day of opening - frequenting the Library's Reading Room with a view to carrying out research. The slight increase in the number of users over last year was also accompanied by a minimal increase in the average number of items - 17 per day of opening over last year's 16 - delivered in the Reading Room. The total added up to 5,066 items during the year. Research was mainly conducted in the newspaper collection and the AOMs. Most readers consulted both old as well as the latest newspapers with a total of 2,918 requests, followed by the Archives of the Order of Malta (AOM) with 723 requests. Melitensia items fetched a total of 717 requests while the Library Manuscript attracted 400 requests. Reading Room staff fetched 173 and 99 volumes from the Adami collection and Treasury Record group respectively. The least sought-after category of items was, as usual, the *Università* archives with 36 requests by scholars for consultation.

REQUESTED ITEMS 2022

	AOM	TREAS.	UNIV.	AD	LIBR. MSS	MELIT.	N/PAPERS	TOTAL
Jan.	71	5	2	2	28	56	234	398
Feb.	41	13	2	32	12	28	277	405
Mar.	72	9	3	18	29	63	329	523
April	53	43	2	25	36	88	347	594
May	34	4	2	19	9	49	270	387
June	47	5	3	18	26	24	218	341
July	37	2	2	7	22	70	181	321
Aug.	44	2	2	6	61	50	221	386
Sept.	61	2	2	4	34	70	174	347
Oct.	88	2	2	5	42	91	259	489
Nov.	59	10	12	9	31	69	258	448
Dec.	116	2	2	28	70	59	150	427
TOTAL	723	99	36	173	400	717	2918	5066

During 2022, the Digitisation Studio continued to scan a number of newspapers and books from the National Library collection. This year a total of 15,460 new images were added. The criteria for digitisation are based on the orders effected by researchers and also on the fragility of the original material, hence the priority given to newspapers. The images were scanned and subsequently edited and sent to users via WeTransfer.

DIGITISED IMAGES 2022	
January	1584
February	2298
March	1123
April	1438
May	1279
June	746
July	590
August	1631
September	1512
October	767
November	1105
December	1387
Total	15,460



Another function of the Readers Services Unit – and a no less important one – is to respond to the needs of those persons who wish to conduct research but prefer to send written requests by email or via the National Library’s social media. This year registered a record number of 922 queries, a notable increase over last year and an average of three queries per day of opening. Over half the total number of queries came from Malta (561 queries), followed at a distance by Italy (143), France (65), the UK (42) and Germany (20). While most Maltese researchers requested information from local newspapers or from the Library Manuscript collection, the nature of the Italian and French queries almost invariably focused on family ancestors who had been Knights of the Order of St John. Such requests required research into the primary sources in order to be efficiently dealt with. Other researchers, usually Maltese emigrants to Australia, the UK, and the US, inquired about Maltese traditions, ancestors or incidents reported in Maltese newspapers. Queries reaching the National Library arrived from as far as Brazil, Indonesia and South Korea.

QUERIES 2022

561 MALTA	11 AUSTRALIA	3 BRAZIL	1 BULGARIA
143 ITALY	9 US	GREECE	ESTONIA
65 FRANCE	6 CANADA	INDONESIA	FINLAND
42 UK	5 IRELAND	POLAND	ICELAND
20 GERMANY	4 PORTUGAL		IRAQ
			NEW ZEALAND
		2 BELGIUM	NORWAY
		HUNGARY	N. MACEDONIA
		INDIA	PAKISTAN
		JAPAN	SERBIA
		ROMANIA	SLOVENIA
		S. AFRICA	SOUTH KOREA
		SWITZERLAND	SWEDEN
			TUNISIA
			TURKEY
			VATICAN CITY

922 TOTAL

FESTA PROGRAMMES PROJECT

Much sought-after items by users of the National Library are the Festa programmes published annually by local band clubs or parish organisations on the occasion of the town or village festa. These publications often contain well-researched articles of a historical or cultural nature. Since they are local publications, two copies are duly given to the National Bibliographic Office as legal deposit copies for preservation purposes. In May 2022, Danica Abela, a first-year student following the Bachelor of Knowledge and Information Management, joined Malta Libraries as a volunteer at the National Library and was assigned the task of organising the Festa programmes collection at the National Library. She immediately set about contacting the band clubs. Thanks to her familiarity with the subject and to her enthusiasm for this project, the feedback forthcoming from the clubs was very positive and extra copies of the programmes began to be made available for collection by the National Library from various localities. Thus, the collection was augmented considerably over the past months and continues to grow with more and more additions. The Library has recently also acquired a sizeable collection from the MCAST library, which had some extra copies to dispose of, as well as others from private collectors. Efforts are being made to establish good working relationships with such sources so that extra copies at both ends can be exchanged with the aim of completing the respective collections.

ACQUISITIONS

An important mission of the National Library is that of collection development, a process whereby the collection of a library is built to cater for the information needs of the users of that particular library. Since the creation of the National Bibliographic Office, the collection and preservation of legal deposit copies is no longer undertaken by the National Library. However, the Library does purchase second copies of most local publications, and these are made available for consultation by patrons. During the year under review, a total of 194 local publications were purchased for the sum of €6,183.77.

In addition to this, books written by Maltese nationals or having a Maltese theme, and which are published abroad are also purchased by the National Library in order to enrich the Melitensia collection, since these are not covered by the Legal Deposit Act. In addition, every effort is made to locate foreign works relating to the Order of St John and/or other orders of chivalry, or publications concerning conservation practices in libraries and archives as well as books of a historical nature which are deemed useful as secondary sources for researchers using the library. The Library spent the amount of €2,712.23 on 35 such publications during 2022.

Acquiring rare and valuable items is a significant way of enriching the national collection. To this end, the National Library actively collaborates with booksellers and antique dealers to acquire rare books or other items such as maps from such sources in Malta and abroad. A substantial number of Melitensia items and rare books – 236 in total – were purchased from private sources for €15,286. The most significant item was the *Philosophi Summi ac Penitus Divini Opera*, consisting of the complete works of the Greek philosopher Plato (428/427 or 424/423 – 348/347 BC) and printed in Basle (Switzerland) in 1561 by Nicolaus Episcopius and Hieronymus Froben. The text was edited by Janus Cornarius and contains a commentary by the Florentine philosopher and linguist Marsilio Ficino. The only copy of this work in a public collection is found at the library of the University of Seville, Spain. This rare 1561 work was purchased from a private source for the price of €4,000.

Another important acquisition during this year was a rare Melitensia item consisting of the complete two-volume set of Felice Demarco's *Metodo Facilissimo per Apprendere la Lingua Latina* of which the National Library had only one volume. Demarco is better known for the Qarcilla composed for the 1760 Carnival, of which the National Library owns the original text. The two volumes of Demarco's book about the Latin language were printed in Malta in 1763 and 1765 respectively. They contain original notes in the author's handwriting and conserve the original binding. The set was acquired from a private source for the amount of €1,500.

The National Library also purchased important items from overseas auctions as well as on Ebay, thanks to the initiative of the Curatorial Affairs Unit:

- Samuel Woodruff, *Journal of a Tour to Malta, Greece, Asia Minor, Carthage, Algiers, Port Mahon and Spain* in 1828 (Hartford, 1831) was purchased from an auction by Lyon and Turnbull Auctioneers, Edinburgh, for €835.70, including VAT and other charges.
- Twenty-three 19th- and early 20th-century albumen prints by the Maltese photographer Orazio Agius featuring views of Malta were acquired for €408.20, including commission, packing and shipping, from Bubb Kuyper Auctioneer of Books, Manuscripts and Prints, Haarlem, the Netherlands.
- C.A.C Lewenhaupt, *Sicilien, Malta och Stromboli* (Stockholm, 1925) was purchased from Antikvariat Röde Orm, Göteborg, Sweden, via AbeBooks at the price of €36.37, including shipping.
- *Histoire de Pierre d'Aubusson, Grand Maître de Rhodes* (Paris, 1676) was acquired on Ebay at the price of €480.05, including delivery costs.

- Six maps and views, namely, map of Malta and Gozo dated 1575 by Sebastian Münster, a View of Malta and Valletta by Louis Audot, a rare map of Old Jerusalem (1702) by Van des Gucht, *Vue de Malthe du côté du Fort*, a 1686 map of Malta by De Rossi and an 18th-century view of Malta by Berthault and Lienard Nice, were purchased on Ebay for a total of €4,699.39.

ACQUISITIONS 2022

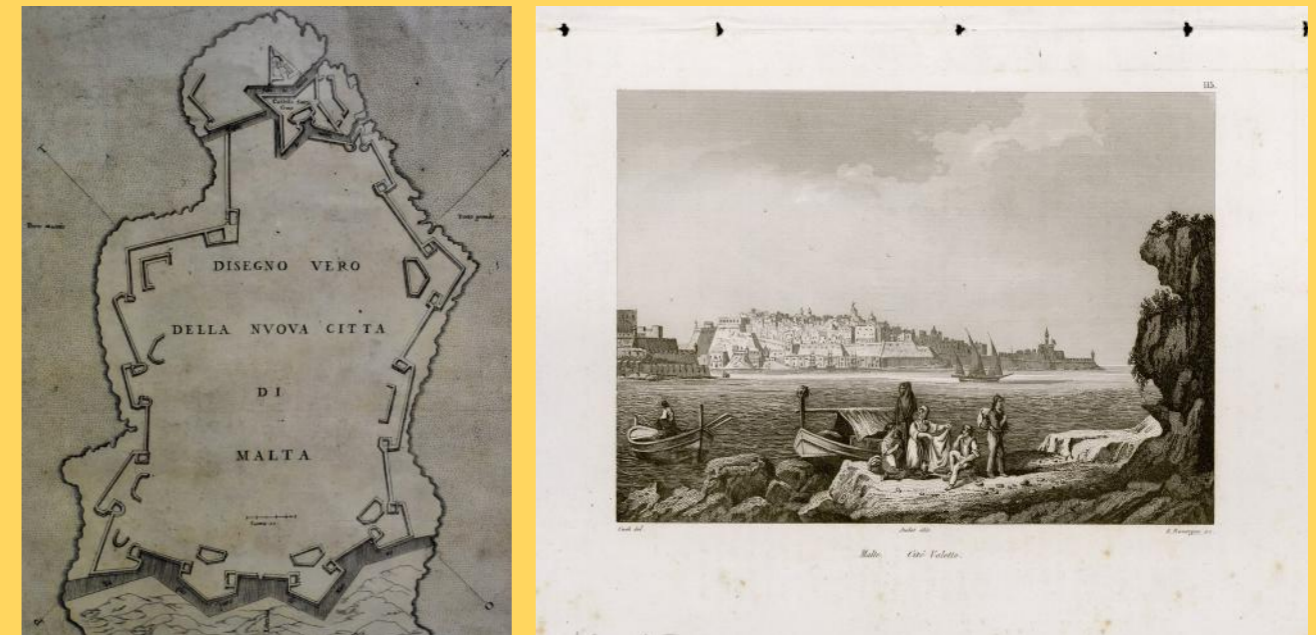
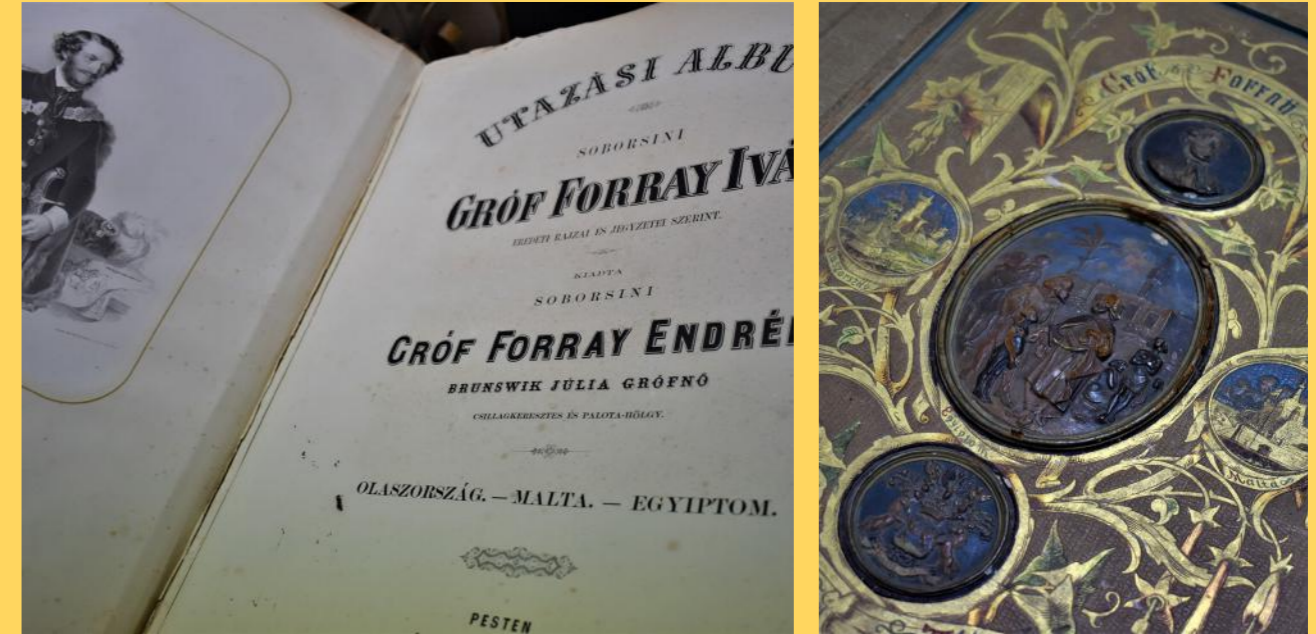
ITEM	NUMBER	COST
2022 local publications	194	€6,183.77
Melitensia and rare books from private sources	236	€15,286
Foreign publications	35	€2,712.23
Items acquired from Ebay	7	€5,179
Items acquired from foreign auctions and antiquarians	25	€1,280.27
Total		€30,641.71

AUCTION OF WORKS FROM DR ALBERT GANADO'S COLLECTION

The highlight of the year 2022 was the acquisition by public auction of twelve items from the priceless collection of Dr Albert Ganado, historian and leading collector of Melitensia. Malta Libraries acquired four manuscripts, four books and four maps – all items of significant value. The manuscripts relate to the Order of St John although they did not belong to the official archives that are conserved in the Library. Regarding the printed works, the most important one for the national collection consists of the 1761 account of the Great Siege called *Malta Invasa de Solimano Segundo*. The Library has a good collection of accounts of the Great Siege that vary from the news pamphlets that were published during 1565 to narratives from the 18th century. Another important work that Malta Libraries acquired was the *Utazasi* or Travel Album, a spectacular large-scale work containing coloured lithographs by the Hungarian nobleman and painter Ivan Forray (1817-1852). Four lithographs show views of Malta.

The world map by the 16th-century Gozitan cartographer, astronomer and astrologer Antonio Saliba (c.1566) was another important acquisition by Malta Libraries. Three more maps of Malta have been added to the Library's map collection and consist of two rare maps by the eminent cartographer and engraver Antonio Lafreri (1512-1577) and one by the Italian cartographer Paolo Forlani, dated 1566.

The total cost of the items acquired from the Ganado auction amounted to €27,459.87.



DONATIONS

Besides the items purchased for the National Library, several donations were made by Maltese and foreign authors, publishers or collectors. One significant donation was made in March by Comm. Dr Dane Munro, President of the Sacra Militia Foundation, and Dr Noel Buttigieg, both lecturers at the Institute for Tourism, Travel and Culture (University of Malta). They presented Ms Cheryl Falzon, National Librarian and CEO of Malta Libraries, with two sets of the journal *Sacra Militia* and of books published by the Sacra Militia Foundation with the aim of increasing the visibility and outreach of the foundation.

An event was held at the National Library on 30th November during which an important donation was made to the Library by Dr Hans D. Kok, a Dutch scholar in historical cartography, who is engaged in both actively collecting and writing articles and co-authoring a number of standard works on the vellum charts of the Dutch East India Company VOC. His extensive collection of maps, charts, sea-atlases and travelogues was donated in 2021 to the Dutch National Archives in The Hague. Dr Kok's donation to the National Library consisted of five facsimile volumes of *portolani* (sea charts) compiled by the Maltese 18th-century pilot Antonio Borg. The original manuscript charts included in vols 1-4 are conserved at the British Library while those contained in vol. 5 are found in Israel. The volumes are a welcome and precious addition to the *portolani* works, mainly by Giuseppe Pace, belonging to the Library Manuscript collection.



CONSERVATION UNIT

This is one of the most vital sections of the National Library since it is here that the Library's precious holdings are treated with a focus on preventive conservation. For this purpose, the disinfestation of archival volumes and shelving in collaboration with SalvArti Co. Ltd continued steadily throughout the year. During the year under review, 54 manuscript volumes and 365 non-Melitensia items were repaired and rebound, and 299 Melitensia books and periodicals were bound, while 37 maps were professionally cleaned and mounted.

This section also undertakes other tasks such as the binding of journals, periodicals and the daily newspapers issued in Malta throughout the year. Other jobs included the making of folders and archival boxes for flat works and rare items, as well as the preparation and setting up of the Sunetti exhibition. For this event, 644 sonnet folios were repaired and treated before being placed on display.



BINDING OF
299 MELITENSIA
BOOKS AND
PERIODICALS

REPAIR AND
REBINDING
OF 365 NON-
MELITENSIA
BOOKS

REPAIR AND
REBINDING
OF 54
MANUSCRIPT
VOLUMES

BINDING OF 38
JOURNALS AND
PERIODICALS

BINDING OF
99 DAILY
NEWSPAPERS

MANUFACTURING
OF 38
CUSTOMISED
PRESERVATION
ACID-FREE
BOXES

CLEANING AND
MOUNTING OF
37 PLANS

REPAIR AND
CONSERVATION
OF 644 SUNETTI
FOLIOS

CLEANING,
FUMIGATION
OF BOOKS AND
DISINFESTATION
OF 250 METRES
OF WOODEN
SHELVING

MOUNTING
OF SUNETTI
EXHIBITION AT
THE NATIONAL
LIBRARY

EXHIBITIONS

SUNETTI EXHIBITION AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

Between 4th November and 31st December 2022, an exhibition of Sunetti was mounted in the Reading Room of the National Library, featuring a large number of exemplars of sonnets - about 200 in all - from the library's collection. The exhibition was officially inaugurated by Hon. Dr Owen Bonnici, Minister for the National Heritage, the Arts and the Local Government. The display was transferred to the Ministry for Gozo, Victoria, between 3rd and 28th February 2023.

The 'sunetti' generally refer to those papers that are thrown down from church roofs during the village feasts. But originally they were poems, usually printed on very fine, coloured and highly decorative paper or silk, consisting of verses written in praise of the patron saint of the parish. Other poems were written to celebrate important national events or prominent persons in the political, religious or cultural fields. Sonnets frequently had political and satirical themes, reflecting the political situation in 19th-century Malta under British rule. Others were written in praise of eminent opera singers or theatre divas. Last but not least, sonnets were written to celebrate special events both on a private level or on a national scale. The writing of a sonnet was an ideal way of preserving the memory of such significant events for posterity. Some of them were works of considerable literary value. A detailed catalogue was published to accompany the exhibition which received a considerable number of visitors during the two months of opening.

PARTICIPATION IN EXHIBITIONS ORGANISED BY OTHER ENTITIES

At the beginning of 2022, the National Archives of Malta participated in European Digital Treasures, a project aimed at bringing increased visibility, outreach and use to European archival heritage, especially its digital versions. The project was co-funded by the European Union through Creative Europe, the EU framework programme for the cultural and audio-visual sectors. One of the main activities of this project was a series of three exhibitions about Europe based on historical records. The first one, entitled 'The Construction of Europe', was mounted at the National Archives of Malta and opened to the public on 28 January 2022. The National Library contributed with the loan of the Cabreo Vilhena from the Treasury Archive (NLM, Treas. B 310). The exhibition ran until 30th April.

In September, the National Library received a request from The Storm Petrel Foundation, whose remit is to promote art, literature and popular culture and organise exhibitions that bring to light unusual collections from private individuals. The Foundation organised an exhibition entitled 'Unseen and Unheard: Stories of Women Under Fire' at its premises in Attard. The display featured artefacts related to the role of women during World War II, especially events and experiences that come to light in their writings (diaries, letters, etc). The National Library obliged by loaning out seven publications from its Melitensia collection. The exhibition was launched on 13th December 2022 and will run for six months.



STUDENTS AND VOLUNTEERS

The year 2022 saw a steady flow of Maltese and foreign students as well as volunteers who generally lent a helping hand to National Library staff. While the Maltese students chose the National Library to conduct their University practicum or Systems of Knowledge projects, foreign students usually came on Erasmus placements. They assisted in the Digitisation Studio by scanning library material. Others helped in the Restoration Laboratory by cleaning books and learning basic bookbinding techniques.

VISITS

During the year under review, the National Library once more opened its doors to drop-in visitors after an absence of two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. They were greeted by security persons at the library entrance who registered their data, both for statistical purposes as well as for security reasons. Visitors were allowed access to the Reading Room against the demonstration of a passport or identification document. A total of 13,567 persons, an average of 45 per day, visited the Library during the year, a number which compared very well with pre-pandemic years. The overwhelming majority of visitors were French (2,628), followed by Italians (1,586), Maltese (1,110), Germans (1,094) and Spaniards (1,089). Others hailed from the UK and from several European countries, as well as from the US and Canada and countries in Central and South America, Africa and the Middle and Far East, and of course Australia, the home of many Maltese migrants.

VISITORS 2022

2628 FRANCE	1586 ITALY	1110 MALTA	1094 GERMANY	1089 SPAIN	716 UK
574 POLAND	558 US	450 NETHERLANDS	388 BELGIUM	266 GREECE	257 PORTUGAL
249 CANADA	193 SWITZERLAND	159 ROMANIA	144 DENMARK	138 AUSTRIA	130 AUSTRALIA
118 SLOVENIA	112 BULGARIA	108 HUNGARY	99 CROATIA	97 IRELAND	93 LITHUANIA

87 SERBIA	78 FINLAND	77 TURKEY	76 CZECH REPUBLIC	72 BRAZIL	71 COLOMBIA
62 JAPAN	57 ISRAEL	50 ESTONIA	49 UKRAINE	46 MEXICO	44 LATVIA
43 ARGENTINA	36 CHINA	34 SWEDEN	31 NORWAY	30 NORTH MACEDONIA	28 RUSSIA
21 CYPRUS	20 SOUTH AFRICA	20 SOUTH KOREA	19 LUXEMBOURG	16 INDIA	16 SLOVAKIA
10 TUNISIA	9 CHILE	9 MALAYSIA	7 LEBANON	7 NEW ZEALAND	6 ALBANIA
6 BOSNIA	6 GEORGIA	6 URUGUAY	5 BELARUS	5 VENEZUELA	4 ANDORRA
4 CUBA	4 LIECHTENSTEIN	4 MOLDOVA	3 ICELAND	3 IRAN	3 MOROCCO
3 SAUDI ARABIA	2 ARMENIA	2 HONDURAS	2 JORDAN	2 KUWAIT	2 ORAN
2 PAKISTAN	2 PHILIPPINES	2 SINGAPORE	2 THAILAND	1 ANTIGUA	1 COSTA RICA
1 EQUADOR	1 KAZAKHSTAN	1 KYRGYZSTAN	1 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	13,567 TOTAL	

On 14th July 2022, the National Library was honoured by a courtesy visit by H.E. Dr George Vella, President of Malta. The National Librarian and CEO, Ms Cheryl Falzon, and the Director Library Operations, Ms Joanne Sciberras, welcomed him at the entrance. He was escorted to the Reading Room where he met Malta Libraries' management and staff and viewed the exhibition in the display cases. He was then shown some treasures from the Library's most significant collections. The visit ended with the presentation by Ms Falzon of some Malta Libraries publications to His Excellency and the signing of the guest book. Before leaving the premises, the President had a photo taken with the Library staff on the steps outside the library. Following the visit, His Excellency expressed his appreciation by gifting the National Library with a splendid facsimile of the manuscript of Nicolaus Copernicus' celebrated work *De Revolutionibus* which had been presented to him by the Jagiellonian University Library, Krakow, during his visit to Poland in 2019.

On 29th July, the National Library welcomed Hon. Dr Owen Bonnici, Minister for the National Heritage, the Arts and



the Local Government. The programme of the visit was very much like the President's visit two weeks earlier. After meeting the staff and viewing the artefacts, Minister Bonnici had a private meeting in the CEO's office with the Senior Management of Malta Libraries. The visit concluded with the presentation of Malta Libraries publications by the CEO and a group photo with Library staff in the Reading Room.

On 20th October, H.E. Ms Katherine Ward, British High Commissioner, paid a courtesy visit to the National Library. She was greeted at the entrance by the CEO and National Librarian, Ms Cheryl Falzon. After viewing the Reading Room, Ms Ward was shown to the CEO's office where a selection of UK-related documents, among them the letters from King Henry VIII and other British sovereigns, had been prepared. Other items included the original George Cross citation and the 1964 Independence Letters Patent signed by Queen Elizabeth II. Ms Ward was much impressed by the treasures conserved at the National Library and expressed her gratitude for the visit.

Apart from these significant visits, the following were also worth noting:

- 25TH JANUARY** SEA-EU delegates participating in the Open Data Policy conference held in Malta
- 28TH FEBRUARY** two students from the Institute of Tourism led by Ms Christine Jones
- 13TH APRIL** guest invited by the Valletta Cultural Agency
- 14TH APRIL** Dr Jeff Kloha, Director of the Museum of the Bible, Washington DC, US
- 25TH APRIL** Italian and French delegation
- 2ND MAY** Mr Toby McIntosh and four guests
- 2ND MAY** Dr Karina Sojkova, Paper Conservator, Czech Republic
- 11TH MAY** Maltese Details International – two persons
- 27TH MAY** 10 students and two teachers from St Augustine's College
- 26-28TH MAY** 30 delegates from Child and Book Conference
- 28TH MAY** Concours d'Elegance – eight persons
- 22ND JUNE** H.E. Dr Luca Rovati, Ambassador to the Sovereign Order of Malta to Greece
- 22ND JUNE** Identity Malta delegation led by Mr Vincent Sladden, Senior Manager Public Registry
- 13TH SEPTEMBER** Dr Yehuda Shaffer, former Israeli State Attorney
- 22ND OCTOBER** BA Maltese students led by Dr Olvin Vella
- 21ST OCTOBER** 10 members of Swiss Luxury Group
- 11TH NOVEMBER** 10 delegates from the European Nursing Editors meeting held in Malta
- 17TH NOVEMBER** DLIAS students led by Dr Valeria Vanesio
- 18TH NOVEMBER** Mr Andrea Bragiotta, Ms Barbara Fasol and Mr Vincent Farrugia of the Soċjetà Filarmonika Nazzjonali La Valette
- 22ND NOVEMBER** Mr Merhatsidik Ayele Agonafer, Deputy Head of Mission of the Order of Malta in Ethiopia
- 22ND NOVEMBER** 25 persons from St Benedict College
- 24TH NOVEMBER** DLIAS students led by Dr Valeria Vanesio
- 29TH NOVEMBER** Prof. Yannis Stoyannidis, West Attica University, US
- 29TH NOVEMBER** 10 History of Art students led by Ms Frederica Agius
- 30TH NOVEMBER** 10 students from DLIAS and MLIAS led by Prof. William Zammit
- 3RD DECEMBER** DLIAS students led by Dr Valeria Vanesio

Exclusively Malta Travel Agency, which provides personalised visits for its guests, organised ten visits to the National Library throughout the year. The tours were conducted by Reading Room staff who provided an exposition about the National Library's history and collections and showed the guests some outstanding items from the library collections.



**MARGARET
BUGEJA**
DEPUTY
LIBRARIAN,
PUBLIC
LIBRARIES'
NETWORK



THE 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 goals of the public libraries are:

- 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 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

This year was an important year of growth and evolution for the Public Libraries. While still faced with a number of precautionary measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic throughout the first months of the year, the libraries maintained their vital connection to the community with a seamless transition between in-person and online environments that are reflected throughout this report.

It is very encouraging to report a substantial increase in book loans. Book loans amounted to 659,616 from 621,202 in 2021, an increase of 6.2 per cent over the previous year. Of these, 623,939 were physical loans from the total network of public libraries spread across Malta and Gozo. Book loans from the Junior and Intermediate Category were the most popular, amounting to 68 per cent of total physical book loans. Loans from the Adult Category reached 32 per cent of total book loans. 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, Luqa and Mosta respectively, and the Gozo Central Public Library.

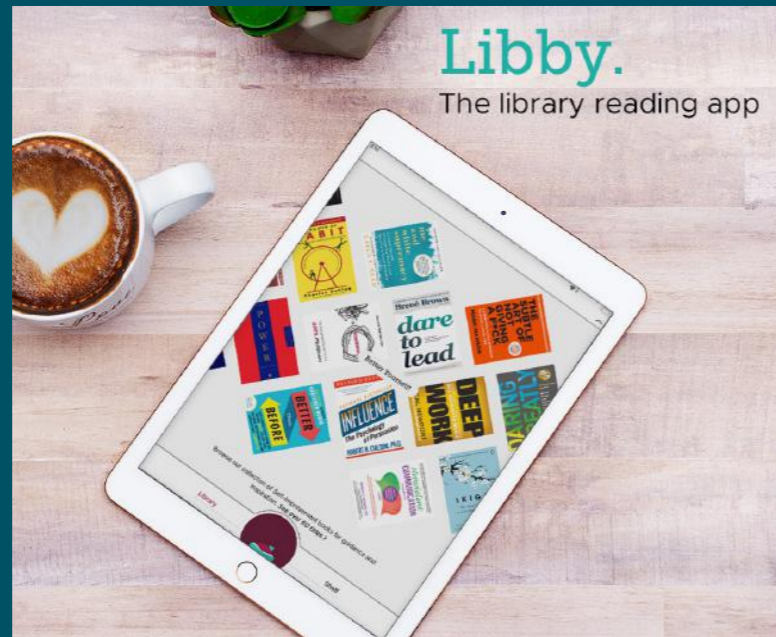
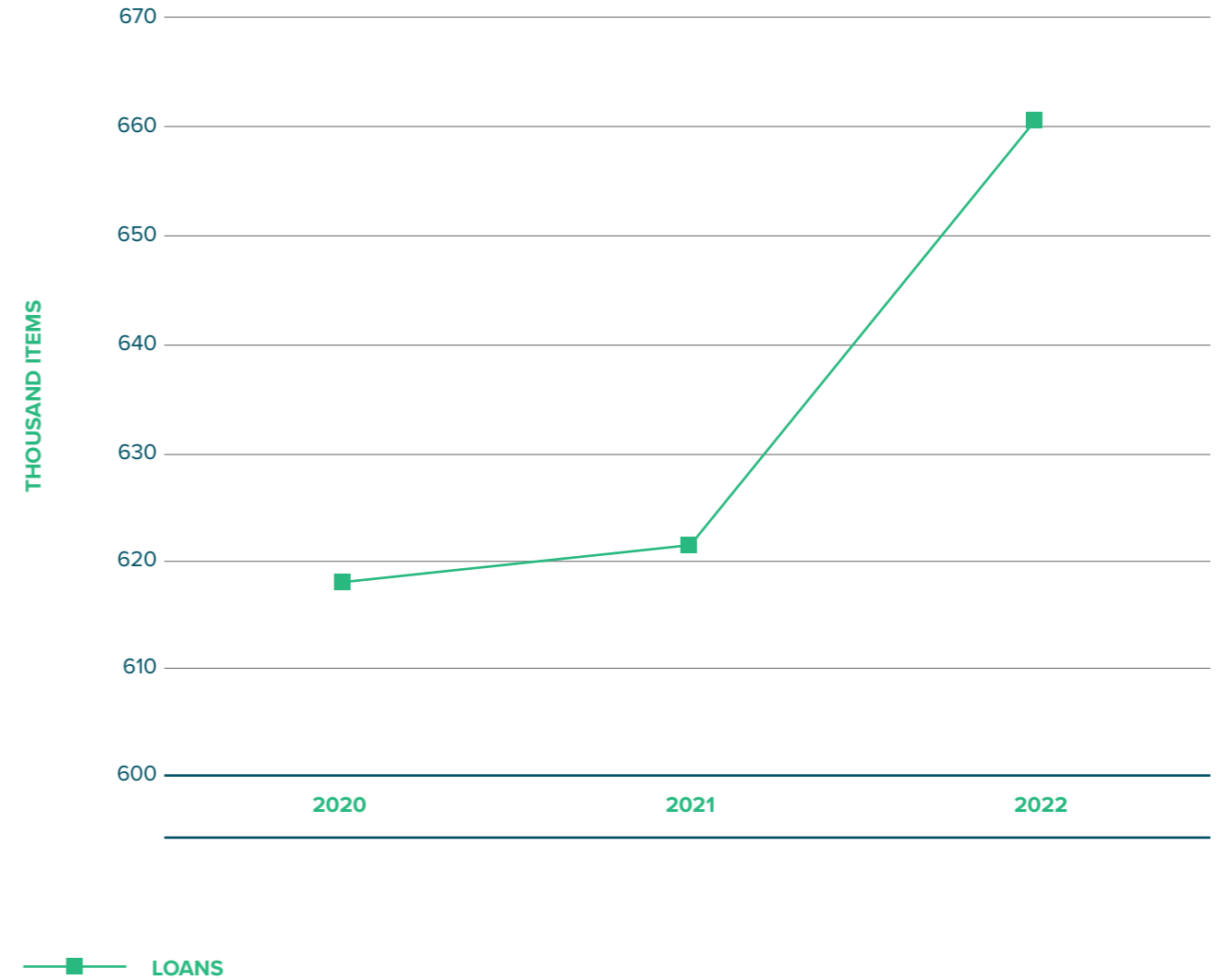
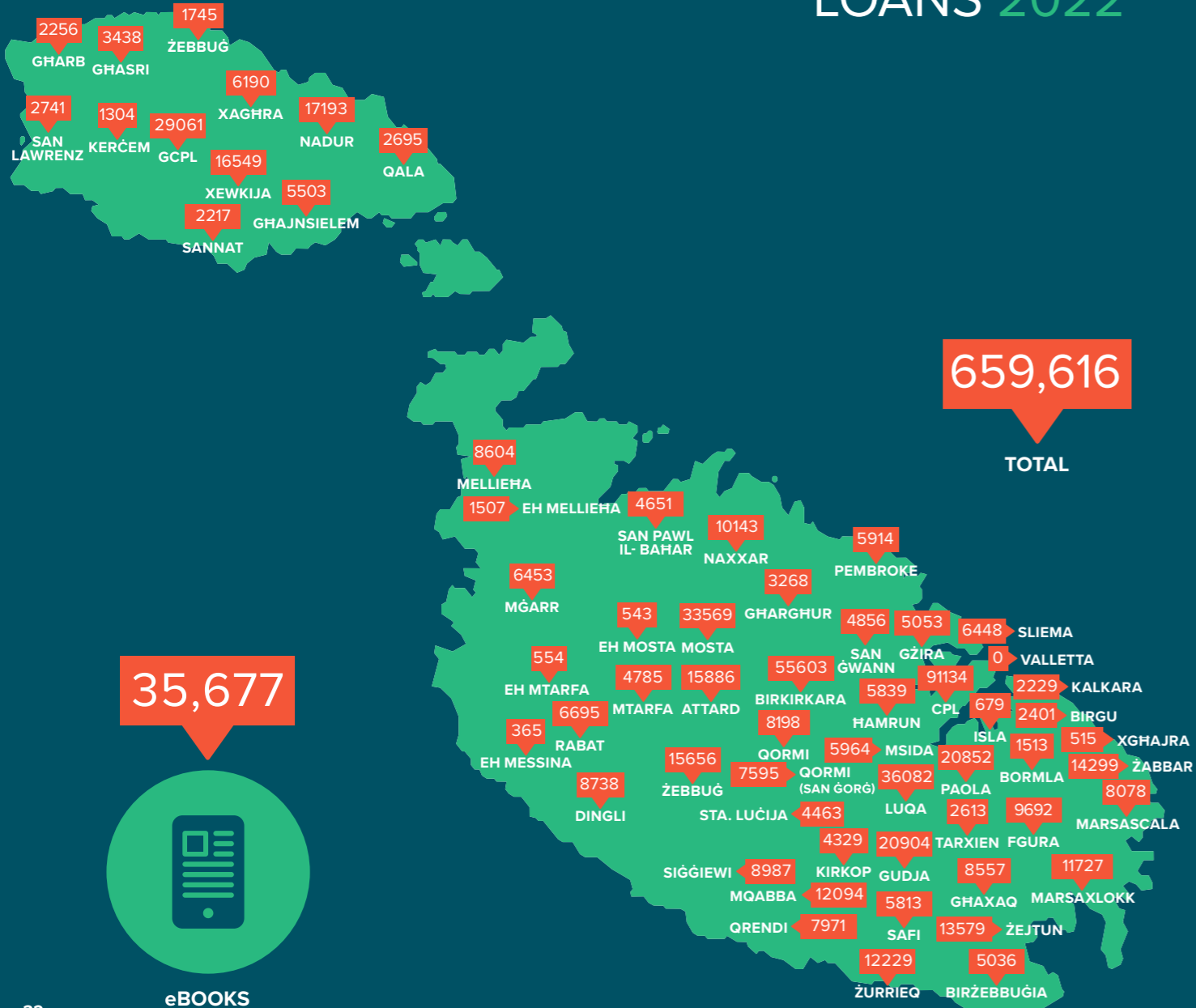


CHART 1: TOTAL BOOK LOANS 2020 - 2022



LIBRARY BOOK LOANS 2022



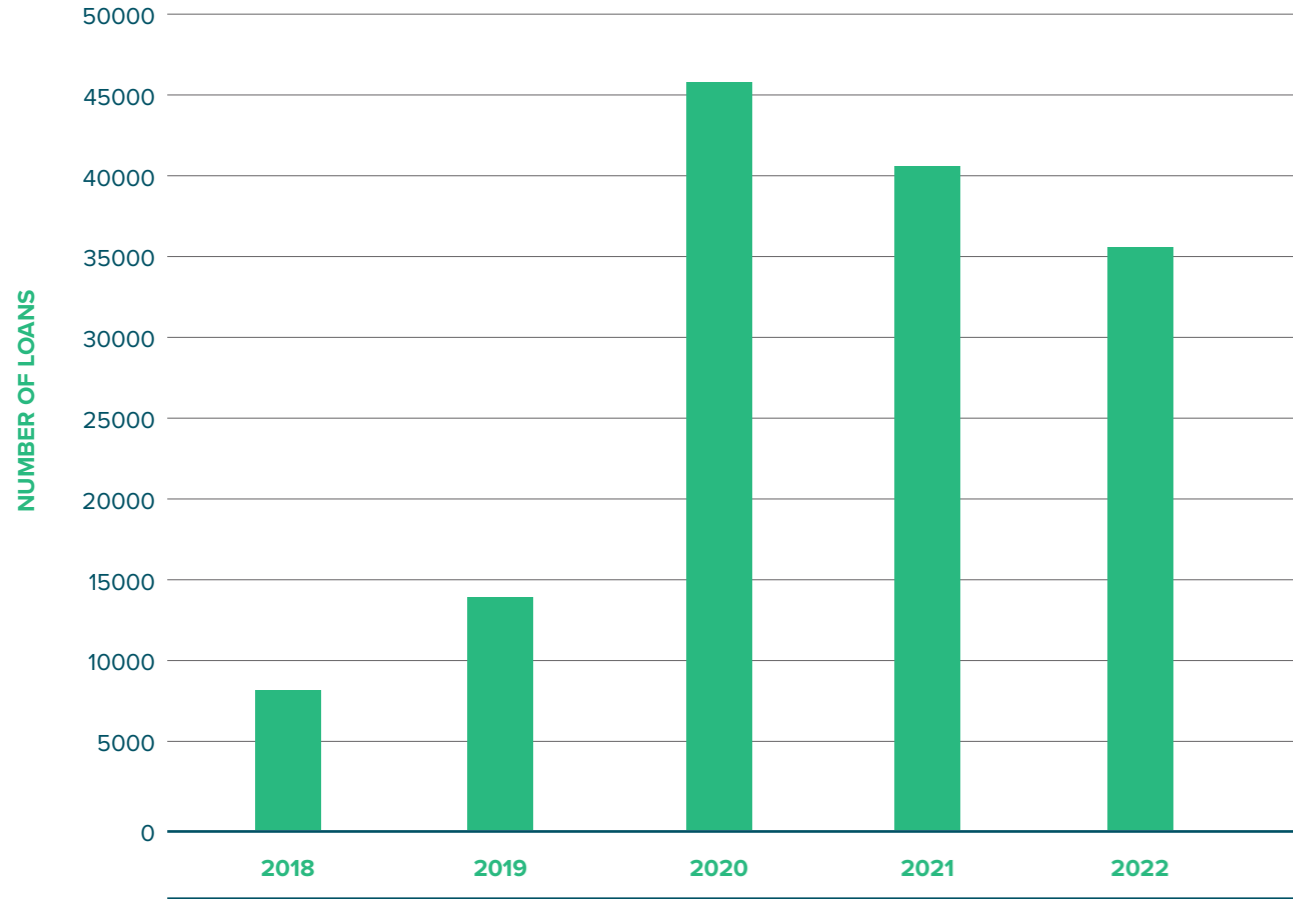
Throughout the year, patrons were again encouraged to continue making use of our online services by downloading Libby - the Free Reading App and to log in using their membership card details. Patrons could also log in directly from maltalibraries.overdrive.com to browse and borrow from our selection of eBooks, audiobooks and magazines. Over the last four years, the loans of eBooks increased from 8,200 in 2018, to 35,677 in 2022. Octavo, the other digital reading and publishing platform which presents books in Maltese in the form of an oBook, continued to gain popularity amongst our users. The total number of oBooks available on the platform reached 98 in 2022 with 316 users making use of the service.

Ohloq il-kont personali ma' Octavo.app

Irreġistra biex tidda tissewv eBooks bil-Malti

maltalibraries.gov.mt

CHART2: EBOOKS LOANS 2018-2022



Malta Libraries celebrated Libraries Week between the 18th and 23rd of April 2022 and the theme chosen was 'LIBRARIES – with you, everywhere! / IL-LIBRERIJI – mieghek, kullimkien!'

As part of the celebrations, Malta Libraries launched the Iguana Library App which incorporates all the functionality and user activities already available on the portal where public and school Libraries are concerned, apart from new functionality such as: the exact map location for each public library and its opening hours; push notifications; and a 'Scan ISBN' function where the app informs you about the

availability of any book in the library catalogue. The app can also be fully converted to Maltese and is free to download from the Play Store or App Store.

In 2022, new members registered with the Public Libraries Network reached 5,947 from 3,435, a significant increase of 73 per cent over 2021. Members under the age of 18 made up 56 per cent of the new members of the public libraries, with the majority falling between the age group of 0-12 years. As of September, enrolment of new members was also possible manually on site and not restricted only to online.



TABLE 2: NEW MEMBERS 2022

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP	2022 NUMBER OF MEMBERS
ADULTS - 18 AND OVER	
Adults ¹	2,415
Adults residing in Malta without Maltese citizenship ^{1&3}	30
Adult foreign visitors ^{1&3}	1
Total	2,446
JUNIORS - UNDER 18	
0-12 years	3,025
13-17 years	236
17 years and under with additional adult lending rights ²	6
0-12 years residing in Malta without Maltese citizenship ³	79
13-17 years residing in Malta without Maltese citizenship ³	9
Junior Foreign visitors ³	4
Total	3,359
OTHERS	
Guests ⁴	99
Staff members	3
Teachers	40
Total	142
TOTAL	5,947

¹ From 2014 all adults have additional junior lending rights

² Require a written permit from a parent or guardian

³ Require a Maltese citizen guarantee

⁴ Temporary borrower category for new members who enrol themselves online

The total number of visitors at the CPL for 2022 was 11,251. July was the busiest time of year with 1,433 visitors while May was the slowest month of the year with 688 visitors.

COLLABORATION WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIRECTORATE, LOCAL COUNCILS AND OTHER THIRD PARTIES

Meetings were held with the Local Government Department regarding the setting up of standards regarding facilities in public libraries to meet today's community needs. A set of standards was forwarded to the Local Government Department to issue a Financial Scheme for Local Councils to renovate their respective libraries. Moreover, a new cooperation agreement between Malta Libraries and the Local Government Department was drafted with the objective of ensuring that both parties work together towards assisting and encouraging Local Councils to help people to widen their horizons, improve their opportunities and bring the community together.

Visits and meetings regarding occurring necessities affecting the day-to-day running of the libraries within our network continued to be held throughout the year.

THE GHAXAQ BRANCH LIBRARY

A meeting with the Ghaxaq Mayor, Mr Darren Abela, and the Executive Secretary, Ms Fiona Cutajar, was held on 13th October, 2022 to find alternative temporary premises for the library since it was located in an area within the Primary School requiring refurbishment. This entailed the closure of the library for a period of one year or more. Since the closure was short-term the Mayor floated the idea of

accommodating the library in an air-conditioned container. Days after the meeting, the Local Council held a meeting with the Hon. Minister for National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government, in the presence of Ms Cheryl Falzon, CEO and National Librarian, with the intention of asking for assistance to find a speedy solution for temporary relocation. With regard to the transfer of book collections it was finally agreed that these are to be despatched and to be shelved in the above-mentioned container while the books issued to the public are to be returned and received at the Paola Regional Library.

RECONSTRUCTION WORKS RE ŻEBBUĠ MALTA BRANCH LIBRARY

On Friday, 16th September, 2022 a meeting was held with the Executive Secretary of the ŻebbuĠ Local Council, Ms Paula Valletta, and Architect Mr Buhagiar to discuss the works that were to be carried out at the the ŻebbuĠ Branch Library. The building currently housing the Library will undergo reconstruction with the present library being transferred to the first floor, thus acquiring more space and full entrance accessibility by the installation of a lift and stairs. Reconstruction works are estimated to take up to four months and during that time the library will be closed to the public with the collections being transferred to a place in Qormi. Clients will be able to return their borrowed books to Qormi Regional Library.

A NEW BRANCH LIBRARY FOR BIRŻEBBUĠA

During November 2022, Ms Cheryl Falzon, CEO and National Librarian, accompanied by Ms Angele Abela, Head of the Ministry for National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government Secretariat, met the Mayor of Birżebbuġa, Mr Scott Camilleri, regarding the prospect of a new building housing the Birżebbuġa Library as well as a clinic. Building plans were displayed and target dates were discussed including devolution and planning permits.

REFURBISHMENT AND OTHER ANCILLARY IMPROVEMENTS AT RABAT REGIONAL LIBRARY

In August 2022, a meeting was held with Mr Anthony Bonello, Executive Secretary of the Rabat Local Council, regarding improvements required at the Rabat Regional Library which comprised the installation of air conditioning, refurbishing works, regular cleaning of the library, soft furnishings, proper signage, and the purchase of new shelving.

AN UPDATE VISIT TO MĠARR BRANCH LIBRARY

A visit to Mġarr Branch Library was carried out on Tuesday, 16th August, 2022 to assess certain aspects concerning the library relating to accessibility, size and space, signage, interior design facilities, connectivity and acquisition of books with regard to the present collections. One must note that the primary reason for the visit was to investigate a complaint lodged by the branch librarian regarding a ceiling leak. A detailed report was drafted after the visit to ensure that the right action is taken to address all the above-mentioned issues.

THE LIBRARIES AT QORMI

After extensive refurbishing, the Qormi Regional Library was inaugurated on 23rd March 2022 by the Hon. Minister

Ian Borg. The Library had undergone major infrastructural works plus installation of new shelving units, construction of new public conveniences, retiling of floors and an upgrade in electrical installation. Once all works were completed and books shelved accordingly in their proper order while simultaneously taking the opportunity to weed out any tattered books or unwanted material, the library was able to open its doors to the public in June 2022.

On the other hand, the Qormi San Ġorġ Branch Library shifted its premises to a nearby temporary location where eventually all shelving units and the respective books had to be transported and placed in the acquired space. Wi-Fi installation was provided by Malta Libraries. The move took around four months to complete, from April to July 2022.

MTARFA BRANCH TEMPORARY CLOSURE

Due to refurbishing works at the Mtarfa Local Council building and the roads surrounding the area, the Mtarfa Branch Library had to be temporarily closed for some weeks to the public. These works had to be executed since accessibility to the respective Local Council was proving difficult.





COLLECTION MAINTENANCE AND WEEDING

During the year in question two branch libraries underwent a weeding exercise to remove outdated reading material and to add space for future publications. This project was carried out at the branch libraries of Żejtun and Sta Luċija. These endeavours were prompted by the temporary transfer of the Żejtun Branch Library to the School Hall as well as the appointment of a new librarian at Sta Luċija Library. The weeding exercise and collection transfer at Żejtun Branch Library commenced in January, continued in February, and was completed by July 2022 when the library reverted to one of the rooms it previously occupied.

The weeding and collection maintenance undertaking at Sta Luċija Library took place between May and June 2022. The meticulous hard work involved sorting out the donations received and achieving the proper organisation of books on the shelves. This was done to ensure that the new Branch Librarian, also present during this exercise, was encouraged to become well-acquainted with the proper layout, organisation and content of the library collection.

NEW BRANCH LIBRARIANS APPOINTMENTS

During 2022 two new Branch Librarians were appointed at Pembroke and Santa Luċija respectively after a call for applications and a subsequent interview. The selection was a rigorous one since quite a number of applications were received.

SPONSORSHIPS

Malta Libraries managed to receive quite a good number of sponsorships throughout 2022 mainly from the following organisations or entities as follows: Kommunità Malta (€10,000); Bank of Valletta p.l.c. (€400); Esplora (€300) to purchase STEM books and €2,000 from BNF Bank from which the Regional Libraries of Rabat, Paola, Qormi and the Naxxar Branch Library benefited by receiving €500 each. The latter included the purchase of special collections such as Braille, Early Readers, dyslexia-friendly titles as well as Large Print titles for children.

OPENING OF LIBRARIES AT ELDERLY HOMES

To honour the concept of one of Raganathan's Laws of Library Science, i.e., 'Bring the Book to The Reader', Malta Libraries ventured into the project of opening more libraries in Homes for the Elderly. With the help of Care Malta and the administration in charge of these Homes, Malta Libraries managed to open three circulating libraries which are much appreciated by the elderly residents for whom books serve as a comfort to brighten their days.

The three libraries in question are found at the Żejtun Home and at Casa Marija – with both libraries opening in March – as well as that at Casa Arkati where it was launched with a 'Lejla Letterarja' on 2nd June. The book stock and other material were provided by the Homes' existing book collections, supplemented by Care Malta funds as well as Malta Libraries. It is to be noted that the above-mentioned libraries were connected to the Malta Libraries Information System, namely the V-smart catalogue, and this facilitated the collection of data regarding book loans and cataloguing of material. Special shelving was procured by Care Malta to further enhance the state of these libraries.

SIGNING OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN THE JINLING LIBRARY OF NANJING, CHINA AND MALTA LIBRARIES

On October 25th, an MOU was signed between The Jinling Library of Nanjing, China and Malta Libraries. The purpose of this MOU is to strengthen cooperation in the exchange of information and expertise management, and based on the principle of mutual benefit, both parties agreed to exchange books and explore other cultural exchange activities in the future. On the day of the signing, distinguished guests from Malta and China met online to jointly witness a donation of more than 200 books from Jinling Library to Malta Libraries. This book donation marked the launch of the first programme 'Window of Chinese Books' in Europe. The books donated cover ancient Chinese literature and art, history, geography, economics, culture, contemporary Chinese politics, tourism, cuisine and other distinguishing characteristics.



This collaboration was supported by the China Cultural Centre who coordinated this initiative between the two libraries and further strengthened the ties between the two countries.

MINISTER THANKS BRANCH LIBRARIANS

The Hon. Minister for National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government, Dr Owen Bonnici, met Branch Librarians on the 7th December at MUŻA, the National Museum of Art, and thanked them for the sterling service they provide to the community. The Minister also presented a thank you certificate to each Branch Librarian as an appreciative gesture.

DONATIONS

On Friday 28th October, Malta Libraries donated a number of emotions-themed books to the Richmond Kids Library Project. The aim of this collaboration was to help increase emotional education and create environments that are open to and accepting of different communities. Moreover, Malta Libraries has also invested in additional copies of the publications *Common Sense* and *More Common Sense*, by Dr Edward Curmi, for its regional and branch libraries. Book sales contribute to Richmond Foundation's efforts in providing psychological services to those who need them most.

Malta Libraries kept up the tradition of donating books to St Joseph Home in Santa Venera during the festive season. This initiative, which was launched in December 2018, is to build and maintain libraries in Children's Homes. On Friday 16th December, the CEO of Malta Libraries presented the books to the boys to continue building their library. The boys also received book gifts to further encourage their love of reading.

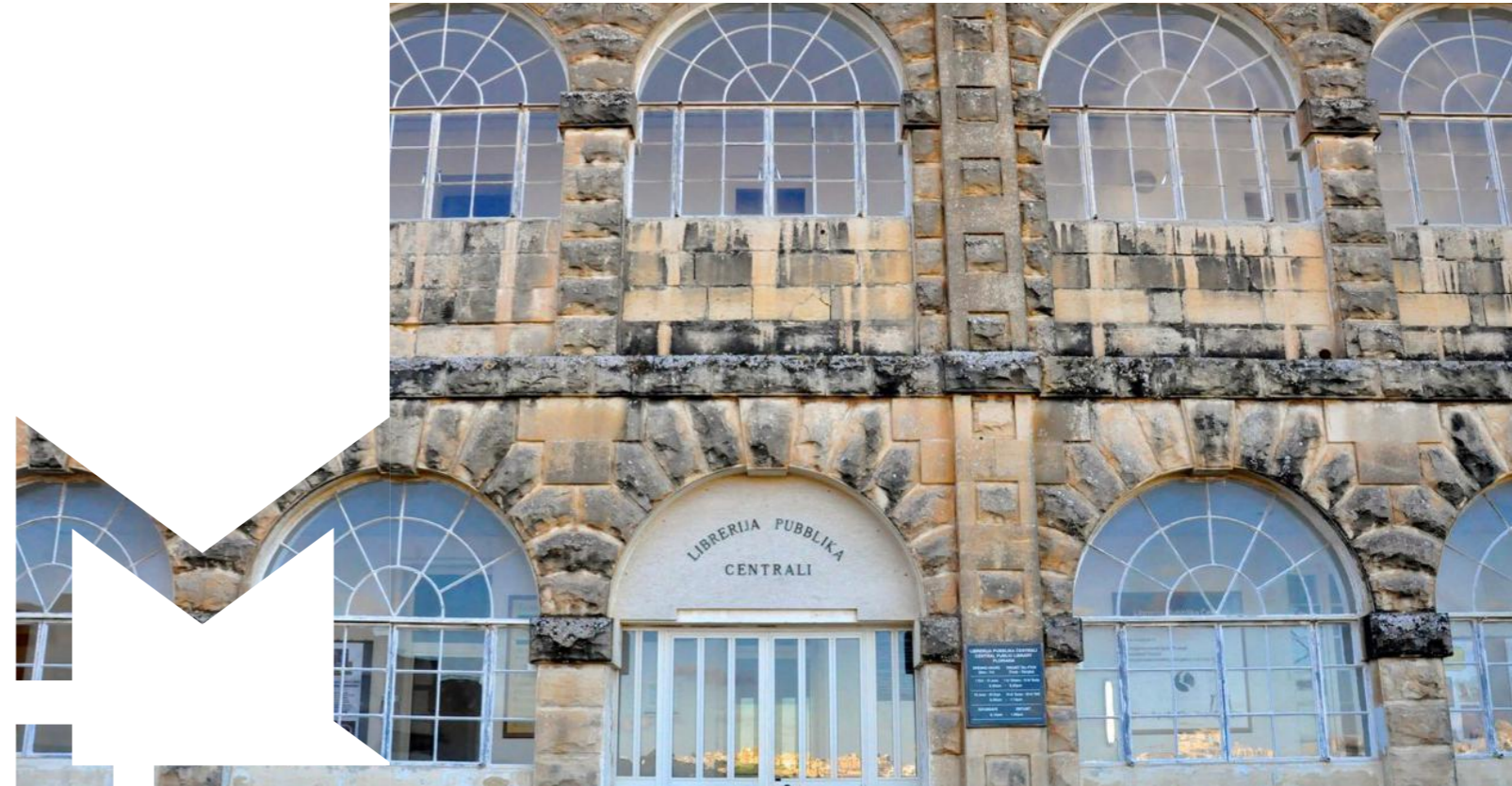
TRAINING AND COMPUTERISATION

Refresher sessions for all librarians forming part of our Public Libraries Network were held during October and November. The main objective of these sessions was to go over any recent enhancements on the Library Management System and changes in business procedures, such as the Manual Enrolment Procedure of new members. A number of discussions on ideas for service improvements and matters which crop up from time to time were also tackled.

CPL RENOVATION

Works continued on the Budgetary Measure 203/2020 - Investing in the CPL to create an interactive space to support inclusion and serve as a resource tool to increase literacy. The tender for the Adult Library first-stage renovation was successfully awarded and works commenced as planned. The Adult Library will be equipped with the latest innovations to address community needs. The second stage will eventually include finishing works.

Furthermore, the need to invest in the CPL as a holistic project and to safeguard safety of staff members and users – Additional Measure 30/2022 – continued to be addressed. Following recommendations from the concerned authorities, planning works started on the holistic renovation of the CPL. An architect from the Restoration Unit was appointed, and an evaluation of the building was carried out together with proposed plans of the works. In the last quarter of the year, a new plan was drawn up following recommendations by the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage.



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, while the Section was again accepting patrons strictly by appointment, a considerable increase in the number of visitors was recorded. It welcomed 290 patrons, from 42 patrons in 2021, who visited the library in person for research to study or consult newspapers and periodicals. Furthermore, another 108 patrons, from 24 patrons in the previous year, preferred to contact the Section for research assistance either by email or telephone. As in previous years, the Reference Library was designated as the main area to host a number of activities and book donation presentations.

Requests for new books were 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 were then made available for public research. Through this initiative, aspects of the collection are highlighted and organised. As a silver lining of the pandemic closures, there had been the opportunity to devote more time to sort, file and classify existing material. Another project which was started last year, and has now been accomplished, is the Periodicals Section. All periodicals have been arranged, filed and organised in individual box files and labelled according to their sequence and category. This makes the Reference Section more efficient, providing easy access to material.



TALKING BOOKS SECTION

The Talking Books Service (TBS) aims to reach out to visually impaired library members and the housebound as well as members with reading difficulties (print disabled). The Talking Books provided by Malta Libraries are audiobooks recorded on pen drives in MP3 format. Audiobooks can be played on a computer or a device player supporting a USB drive.

The number of patrons registered in 2022 with the Talking Books Section were 148, an increase of 4.2 per cent over 2021, despite members reported deceased. These included: 127 persons with visual impairments, 12 people who were housebound, and nine people with other needs. Of these, ten members marked more than one criterion.

Talking book loans in the year 2022 amounted to 3,333, an increase of 40 per cent over the previous year. This increase in loans was attributed to the team effort which was steadily maintained throughout the year as well as greater outreach to enrol new members. Moreover, some patrons expressed the wish to obtain a third pen drive, which also contributed to higher loan numbers. A thorough exercise was carried out to single out active members and their needs as well as those inactive members. This resulted in a tangible list of members who were interested to subscribe to Malta Libraries' service. This has proved to be a motivational exercise.

In 2022, the Unit also started to provide the Talking Books Service to Elderly Homes with the aim to continue enhancing the quality of life of the elderly residents. The service was extended to 11 Elderly Homes which include the Active Ageing Centres in Birżebbuġa, Luqa, Mosta, St Paul's Bay and Sta Venera as well as the Elderly Homes of Bormla, Mtarfa, Casa San Paolo, Dar Pinto, Dar Saura and Roseville.

During 2022 the Section continued to digitise books by converting them from cassettes to MP3 format. It also participated in training sessions organised by the Accessible Books Consortium (ABC), which sessions were an update of the new system of downloading audiobooks in English. This was carried out to enhance the present catalogue and nine additional English titles were downloaded. This agreement was signed in 2019 and ratified in 2021.

Furthermore, the Section is in contact with a renowned English-language author, the prize winner of a competition for English novels on the BBC, who is willing to assist in finding professional English readers and enrich the present catalogue by adding his literary works already broadcast on foreign radio stations including the BBC. Throughout the year, the Section was also in contact with the Public Broadcasting Services regarding the acquisition of existing recorded titles to increase the number of titles regarding Maltese publications available.

Another landmark meeting was held with MaltaPost to improve the retrievability system of the pen drives. An agreement was reached on a new business procedure which proved to be successful and traceable.

During the year, recording sessions resumed with five readers who attended for reading sessions at the recording studio. This service had been interrupted as a result of precautionary measures solicited by COVID-19 regulations. This situation also prompted the action to split the recorded studio in two for the sake of social distancing.

ACQUISITIONS AND COLLECTION MANAGEMENT SECTION

The Acquisitions and Collection Management Section is responsible for purchasing books and eBooks for the Central Public Library as well as for coordinating book purchases for regional and branch librarians within the Malta Libraries Public Library Network who choose to avail themselves of the CPL's centralised acquisition service. At the start of the year public libraries are allocated a book budget reflecting the previous year's loan performance and this serves as an incentive to improve. New publications are promoted regularly to all librarians within the network and any book orders directly received are coordinated and purchased through the Section. It also works in liaison with all librarians within the network who seek advice on book selection, relay feedback on clients' book requests or signal any gaps within their library collections. In this manner, the public libraries' collections can keep developing organically, fulfilling their patrons' requests while remaining sensitive to their changing informational, educational, and recreational needs within a world in flux.

Monitoring and keeping abreast of the constant developments in the local and international publishing scene is a requisite, and the Section also focuses on exploring and analysing Malta Libraries' online and eBook catalogues and loan statistics for the purpose of gauging borrowing trends, subsequently compiling lists and categorising new acquisitions for promotional and marketing purposes by the Outreach Team on Malta Libraries' social media platforms.

During 2022 the Public Libraries acquired a total number of 12,150 books and eBooks, spending €119,863.02 in all. This figure comprises 11,031 books costing €78,120.66 and 1,119 eBooks and audiobooks from the digital supplier OverDrive. The sums of €29,942.36 and €11,800 were spent on OverDrive and Octavo respectively, with both figures including the cost of the digital licences required.

Post-pandemic, this year saw a welcome return to Malta Libraries being once again able to accept donations without restrictions. From a total of 19,974 books donated to Malta Libraries, a generous 11,814 originated from the public. Other donations were received from a diverse mix of organisations, companies, Local Councils and individual authors. The second largest donation was courtesy of the National Literacy Agency with 2,392 books, followed by Local Councils who donated 1,320 books, Komunità Malta with 881 books and Wirt iż-Żejtun donating 824. Among the various other donors who are too many to mention, one must also note the generous donations received from the National Book Council, Bank of Valletta and BNF Bank, the China Cultural Centre, as well as the Office of the Principal Permanent Secretary. All these donations add value and diversity to Malta Libraries' collections.

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 28 members. In 2022, the cataloguing team catalogued 5,667 items and added 40,879 items to different libraries and elderly homes. The general public donated over 11,814 items and 8,160 items were donated by various publishers, authors, ministries, departments and agencies. Besides, over 7,782 items were catalogued for the Institute for Education and for six church schools that migrated onto Malta Libraries' V-smart system.

Continuous training is provided so 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 frame.

INTERNSHIPS AND VOLUNTARY WORK

Throughout 2022, the Central Public Library could not physically accommodate students and volunteers mainly due to renovation works being carried out in the building. Interested applicants were however given the option to carry out tasks at any of the regional libraries. The Birkirkara and Paola Regional Libraries accommodated two students to carry out their Summer Work Placement. Additionally, a student carried out her Systems of Knowledge project of 20 hours community work at the Mosta Regional Library. Two volunteers also undertook voluntary work at the Birkirkara Regional Library. The tasks mainly included book processing, becoming familiar with Malta Libraries services, information gathering and contributing to the everyday running of the libraries.

**ELIZABETH
EBEJER**
DIRECTOR,
GOZO
LIBRARIES



GOZO LIBRARIES

INTRODUCTION

By the first quarter of 2022, life gradually began to return to normal after the disruptions caused during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was during this time that library staff proved their resilience and in the face of adversity all Gozo libraries within Malta Libraries' public libraries network worked hard to continue providing their services.

During these months, the two libraries located in Victoria worked tirelessly to ensure that necessary maintenance work was completed during slower periods. We believed that with consistent effort, we could return to and even exceed the level of service experienced before the pandemic. The beauty of working in a library is that there is always more work to be done, so with this in mind, we have continued to grow and sustain our effort towards serving the community.



GOZO NATIONAL LIBRARY

The National Library of Gozo is housed in a 19th-century building that vibrates with history, but more importantly, it houses a collection of priceless books. We recognise that it is of utmost importance that this building is given the necessary attention when it comes to ongoing maintenance. Lights were installed around the Reading Hall of the library to provide satisfactory illumination for both staff and patrons. This project started in 2021 and continued throughout 2022. While the work were taking place, materials in the Reading Hall were shifted to other places.

An in-house training session was organised during which several topics were examined, including special reference and handling of books and other special materials. The library materials that are housed at the NLG were displayed during the exhibition held at the National Library, Valletta, titled 'SUNETTI: Minn Fomm u Qalb il-Poplu. This same exhibition will be held in Gozo throughout February 2023.





GOZO CENTRAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

If there is one place that has undergone a significant change during the past months, it is the Central Public Library of Gozo. Vibrant colours greet one upon entering, attracting the eye to shelves full of new books. It brings a smile to see that when young children visit the library, they choose a book and immediately sit in the car we have parked in the library. Every Wednesday afternoon, there is an hour of animated reading for toddlers, *Aqra Miegħi/Read with me*. This project is carried out together with the National Literacy Agency. A new initiative we have introduced is that of allowing our young readers to suggest titles of new books they would like to see on our library shelves. During the summer months, a good number of children also took part in Malta Libraries' reading challenge - the Library Champion Campaign.

From time to time, school visits are organised where students, accompanied by their teachers from the Gozo College Rabat Primary, visit the library where they attend a special lesson which always proves a wonderful experience. During the months leading up to exams, the Reference Section is full of students seeking out a quiet place to study and use the study materials available there.

In 2022, a new area was created to house our Melitensia collection. All novels and short stories in Maltese are collected, and space is reserved for collection development. The reading area in the adult section was attractively furnished with natural light, comfortable sofas, and green plants. Every month, the exhibition area highlights a topic, and books display the chosen topic. During the summer months, the topic chosen was "Under the Sea" and the need to protect our oceans. The library collaborated with Saving Our Blues as well as with Sajd.

The library also joined forces with Eco Gozo who generously donated a new shelf design for the Children's Library as well a good number of new books. This year, our librarians catalogued all the books purchased by the Gozo Central Public Library and the Gozo branches themselves, helping the books to find their place on the shelf more quickly.

The Book Club Gozo also continued to meet every month, with an interesting selection of books discussed throughout the year. All books are available to borrow at Gozo Central Public Library.

GoZO BOOK CLUB 2022

January 26	<i>First Steps in Singapore</i> by Hanjuki Murakami
February 23	<i>Handwritten</i> by Karen Jennings
March 23	<i>Under the Sea</i> by Kazuo Ishiguro
April 27	<i>Trick</i> by Domenico Starnone
May 25	<i>Station Eleven</i> by Saleem Haddad
June 22	<i>Station Eleven</i> by Ana Maria Matute
July 27	<i>Station Eleven</i> by Ruth Scurr
August 31	<i>Station Eleven</i> by Andy Weir
September 28	<i>Station Eleven</i> by Madeline Miller
October 26	<i>Station Eleven</i> by Emily St. John Mandel
November 30	<i>Station Eleven</i> by Irvine Welsh
December 21	<i>Station Eleven</i> by Tom Cox

Join **GoZO Book Club** on the last Wednesday of every month from 10:30 am - 11:30 am. It's free and everyone is welcome. Copies of all the books listed are available for loan through the library service.

SCAN ME

If you cannot make our monthly meetings, please join in the discussion on the group's Facebook page, where you will also find lots of book-related information, events, news and further reading ideas.

GOZO BRANCH LIBRARIES

During the last week of January, a condition assessment report of all Gozo libraries started being compiled. A report was written, highlighting common issues such as lack of space, insufficient light, books requiring weeding, and missing spine labels. The director met with the librarians to discuss the salient points and suggest short-term and long-term targets. Subsequently, the director also met with the mayors of each local council, and these meetings were fruitful, with several libraries undergoing refurbishment as we speak.



**OLIVER
MAMO**
DIRECTOR,
NATIONAL
BIB-
LIOGRAPHIC
OFFICE



NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC OFFICE

The year 2022 can be briefly described as the year in which the NBO settled into its new reality – namely that of being split across Malta and Gozo. This split reflects the two main strands of work that run in parallel, albeit independently, and are continuously synchronised to ensure that specific projects, their management and the office's administration, can work seamlessly. The team working on Legal Deposit continued their work from the Floriana offices, whilst cataloguing, despite the current lack of specifically assigned premises, has now been established in Gozo, namely through the cataloguing project being carried out at the National Library - Gozo. Consequently, the NBO continued its work on 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

Bibliographic work continued primarily with the registration of new material. As stated in the preceding annual report, the NBO's goal was an ambitious quota of retrospective newspaper and journal issues becoming accessible through the library online access catalogue (OPAC). To date, the 200,000 issues mark that was targeted as part of the project AM/143/2021 entitled Retrospective Cataloguing, has been achieved. Additionally, within the same measure, a further 1,000 retrospective books have been included in the catalogue, reaching the total accumulative figure of 3,000 retrospective books now catalogued and accessible through the OPAC. By the end of 2022, the retrospective items catalogued under the National Library Gozo Cataloguing Project totalled 130,000 newspaper and journal issues as well as 1,000 books.

Bibliographic work is a labour-intensive and continual process. Despite the difficulties of not having specific

designated offices for the NBO in Gozo, and hence for cataloguing work, the results achieved so far are encouraging. The NBO plans to include a further 100,000 issues of newspapers and journals and a further 1,000 books accessible through the OPAC during 2023. Another task carried out by the NBO under the measure AM/144/2021, is the Book Cover Image Project. Despite the difficulties encountered during 2022 due to staff turnover and the required changes in staff roles, the NBO succeeded in upholding its commitments by duplicating the achievements of the preceding year. Consequently, a total of 10,800 bibliographic records have been completed with their respective cover image. These figures constitute a mean of 450 images per month since the commencement of the project. The forecast for 2023, given the NBO's current human resource capacity, is to add a further 5,400 bibliographic records. These key indicators are important since it is envisaged to have all the legacy records on the system included within a five-year cycle.

RECOVERY OF RETROSPECTIVE MATERIAL

PRIMARY RECOVERY EXERCISE

This involves the daily scrutiny of material in charity shops, with verification being made either by correlating every item of interest with data available online or through direct communication with both the NBO office in Floriana or the National Library - Gozo. Once the Melitensia items are recovered from site they are placed in carton boxes and transported to the NBO office awaiting evaluation. Whereas legal deposit indicates one copy of each publication, in order to determine if the document was already held in both national library repositories, a second copy for NLM was recovered when an item was chanced upon.

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 to isolate it from the other documents.

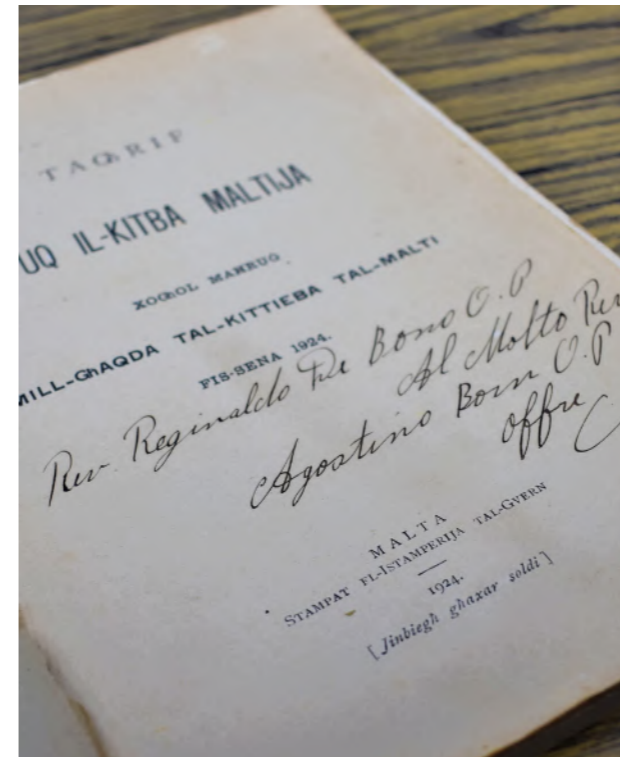
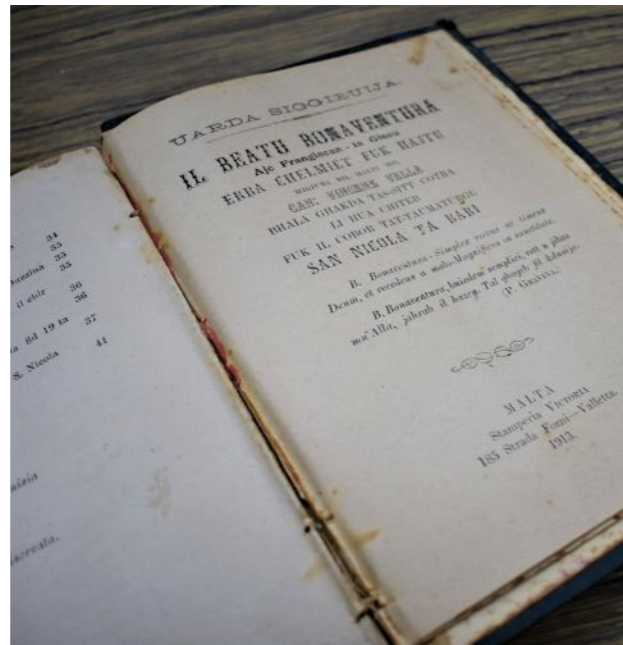
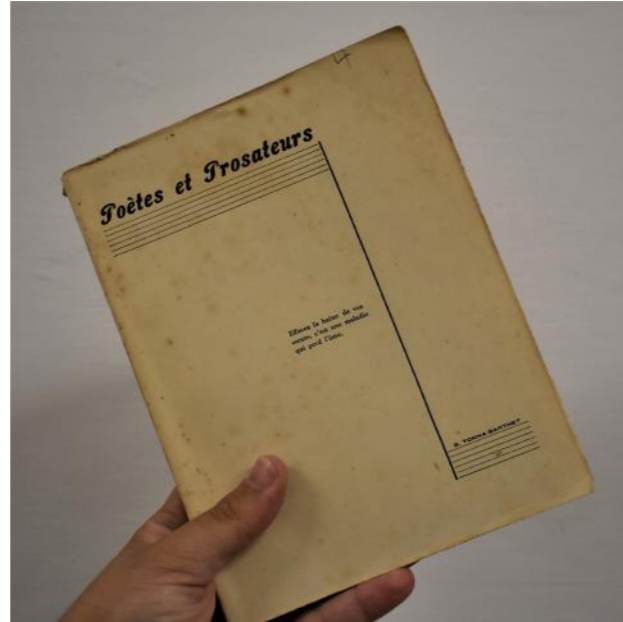
Once the boxes with recovered material were taken to the NBO office in Floriana, these were put directly into quarantine for the second time, even though there had only been one handler since their original recovery.

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 noted as poor, fair, very good and mint. Notes 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 leaved through, stains, moisture or fungal growth, silverfish and so on, and whether VHS copies retrieved had fungal growth or vinegar syndrome.



RECOVERED PRINTED MELITENSIA MATERIAL

The majority of the **838 books** recovered during 2022 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.

NBO brokered a small bequest by Mr Joseph Chetcuti of Marsaskala who donated books that were previously owned by Arthur Frendo, his grandfather, a devout Catholic. These included the whole set of six volumes of Canon V. Vella's *Il hajja tal glorius taumaturgu San Nicola ta Bari*, published by Stamperia Victoria of Valletta in 1912-1913 and his rare *Uarda Siggiewujja: il-beatu Bonaventura* in 1913, Mons. Jean-Joseph Gaume's five volumes of *Taghlim complit tar-religion nisranija*, translated into Maltese by Dun Xand Cortis and published between 1928 and 1934. Other books recovered were a 1941 wartime copy of Ninu Cremona's *Taghlim fuq il-Kitba Maltija*, of which only 1,000 copies were printed and Gaston Tonna Barthe's 1946 publication *Poetes et prosateurs: du XIX siècle*.

Another donation was by Mr Pierre Portelli of Marsa, who donated 980 Maltese football programmes featuring the Malta national teams and most local clubs, including those competing in the lower divisions. Their processing, including the frontispiece scan and online record creation, has started and will be continued in 2023.

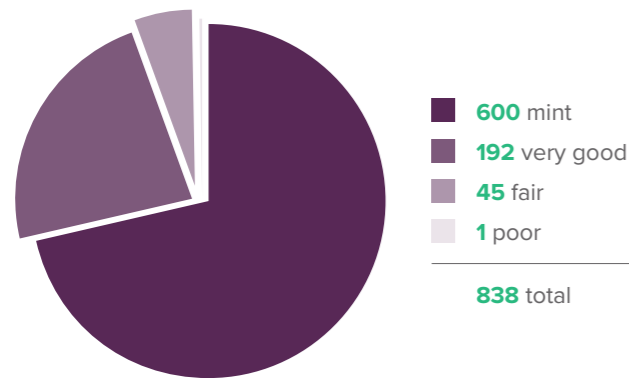
Also recovered were **714 periodicals** which included many from a substantial bequest, by Mr Raymond Fava of Marsaskala, of hundreds of mint copies of Maltese lifestyle magazines, such as *Alive & Healthy*, *Flair*, *Manic*, *Sunday Circle* and *Wotz Up*. These were all sorted by edition and issue and verification on periodicals already in repositories was undertaken. All the missing issues from the Fava donation have now been placed in our repositories, mostly in Gozo.

Extra copies of recovered or bequeathed books and periodicals that were already held in our repositories were handed to the Central Public Library Reference Collection to consolidate the existing collection that is on open access.

NBO also recovered **130 audiovisual records**, including the first 18 episodes of *Simpatiči*, the first three volumes of Dominic Said's *Qegħdin Sew!* and several cassettes of Eileen Montesin's Under Cover, all in VHS format, and several original audio cassettes of the 1970s including those featuring The Greenfields, Cyclone Band, Enzo Gusman and Ġorġ Azzopardi Il-Makk. **359 ephemera** documents were also registered, mainly being flyers, calendars, posters and 2022 election propaganda material.

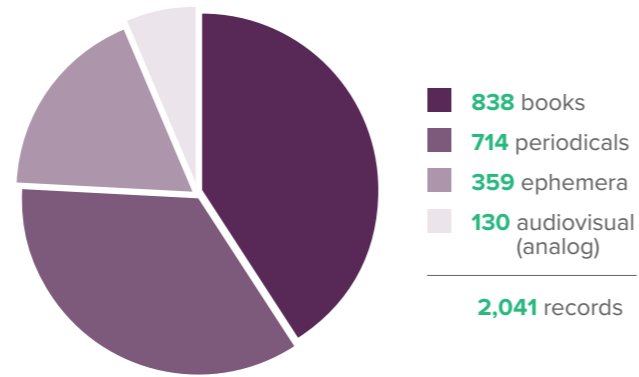
During the first half of 2022, retrospective Melitensia books that had been recovered had their respective frontispiece scanned and the bibliographic data uploaded on the national catalogue.

CONDITION OF BOOKS RECOVERED



From this pie chart one considers the high amount of mint publications (71.6%), or in very good status (23%), that were acquired. These had either been purchased by their owner or received as a gift and remained unread; others had autographs or dedications. As in previous years, the predominant genre of mint publications was of a devotional content or Maltese poetry books, whereas those in a very good condition included children's literature and various non-fiction categories in English.

TYPES OF RECORDS RECOVERED



AUDIT OF IL-BANDIERA TAL-MALTIN HELD IN OUR REPOSITORIES

The NBO also undertook an audit of all existing hard copies of Manwel Dimech's *Il-Bandiera tal-Maltin* held within our repositories. From the first issue published by Manwel Dimech (1860-1921) on the 8th of January 1898 to the last issue on the 22nd of August 1914 (or perhaps a missing 29th August 1914 issue) the numeration reached 461. Nevertheless, the correct number of published issues can be verified once all issues are recovered since there were instances when the enumeration number was repeated and others when it was skipped. There were also hiatuses in the publication of *Il-Bandiera tal-Maltin*. These included the years when the newspaper was suspended, and continued until its abrupt end, followed by Dimech's political exile to Egypt and his death at a mental institution at Sidi Bixir, while incarcerated by the British colonial rulers.

NBO went through every issue of all the volumes held at NLM. Data was created stating issue number, date of issue, number of pages, whether the issue is an original print or in photostat format. The photostat format bound in separate volumes were found to be a poor copy of the original, also held in repository, mainly in faint print or with cropped text and no margins.

The original issues, of which there are multiples copies of some, are mostly on fragile pulp paper that has become brittle. Several issues have torn pages with all text readable while others are in shreds. *Il-Bandiera tal-Maltin's* size varies from broadsheet to A3 and all issues in repository, bar two, have four pages, with a total of **1,499** sheets of those at NLM requiring digitisation.

If or when the missing issues are recovered through an outreach exercise, and assuming that all missing issues are four-pagers, then an additional 348 or **364** sheets shall also require digitisation, for a grand total of circa **1,863** sheets.

From the 461 issues held in repository, NLM has 374 issues with between 87 to 91 missing from the collection. The ratio roughly works around 81% held in our repository and 19% awaiting recovery.

HARVESTED MALTESE E-DOCUMENTS

The previous year saw the content analysis & filenaming of **559** local council e-documents, **194** financing e-reports; **27** NGOs & associations e-reports and e-magazines; **140** government entities e-annual reports including **72** for 2021 and from previous years; **154** retrospective governmental e-magazines; **1,189** SCH e-documents and **681** governmental strategic plans, policy papers and their annexes and attachments. This brings a total of **5,988** e-documents harvested during 2022.

The comprehensive mapping of governmental content creators continued with the identification of small units that generate reports. Additional harvesting was done in the financial sector, with a total of **194** e-documents from Malta-based auditing and banking institutions, in respect of European Union and Maltese financial reporting obligations. Harvesting of the SCH national inventory e-documents continued with 69.3% of the records now deposited.

Throughout 2022, **2,850** audiovisual e-publications available on YouTube were downloaded and filenamed in order of their date of upload on the social platform. From these, **183** were governmental, **98** were Jon Mallia and Nduru Mal-Lewża podcasts, and **2,569** pertained to 28

NGOs focusing on Maltese culture and environment that were identified. The earliest e-publications retrieved dated back to 2008 with 20 records, with the number rising to 447 in 2021. The most prolific e-publishers are Birdlife Malta (BLM) and Dilettanti tal-Agricoltura, Siġar u Pjanti (DASP), as the chart clearly indicates.

The total amount of **8,029** of records recovered in one calendar year surpasses that of **7,504** in 2021.

LEGAL DEPOSIT AND BARCODING

The NBO is also the receiving office for the legal deposit of Maltese publications. During 2022 it received **464** titles published locally for the current year, and an additional 49 titles that had been published in previous years. It also received **417** printed periodicals published between the end of 2021 and the current year. Efforts by correspondence or telecons are also being made to recover printed or digital copies of past periodicals, while the barcoding process of past publications held at NLM continued.

NBO has also persevered with the ongoing task of registering and barcoding the volumes of Maltese newspapers kept at the National Library of Malta and salient Melitensia periodicals into the V-Smart system that are held at NLM and NBO. These included *Foodlist*, *Share Magazine*, *Il-Musbieh*, *Il-Bizzilla*, *Il-Mara t'illum* and *Lehen is-Santwarju*.



MALTESE CULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL NGOS AUDIOVISUAL E-PUBLICATIONS 2008 - 2022

ORGANISATION	ABBR.	AV FILES	2022	2021	2020	2019
CULTURAL						
Akkademja tal-Malti, L-Archaeological Society - Malta, The Din l-Art Helwa	AKKM	37	6	12	1	3
Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti	ASM	13	5	7	1	0
Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna	DLH	4	0	4	0	0
Għaqda tal-Malti (Universita')	FPM	53	3	18	20	8
Malta Bus Archive	FWA	28	0	1	1	0
Malta University Historical Society	GHMU	144	3	9	18	40
Malti.mt - Dipartiment tal-Malti - Univ. ta' Malta	MBUSA	34	0	10	10	4
Palazzo Falson	MUHS	23	2	5	16	0
St. John's Co-Cathedral Foundation	MALMT	277	39	133	105	0
Wirt il-Kalkara	PFAL	57	5	20	16	2
Wirt iż-Żejtun	STJCF	79	16	13	35	2
	WIK	90	12	15	26	16
	WIZ	99	2	24	1	1
13 ORGANISATIONS		938				
ENVIRONMENTAL						
BICREF	BCR	3	0	0	0	0
Birdlife Malta	BLM	617	38	58	107	64
Committee Against Bird Slaughter	CABS	52	2	2	6	4
Dilettanti tal-Agricoltura, Siġar u Pjanti	DASP	623	24	73	186	122
Federazzjoni Kaċċaturi Nassaba Konservazzjonisti	FKNK	9	2	5	0	2
Flimkien Għall-Ambjent Aħjar	FAA	4	0	0	0	0
Friends of the Earth	FOEM	30	1	2	8	12
Kaċċaturi San Ubertu	KSU	7	0	0	2	0
Majjistral, Il-Park Nazzjonali tal-Miscellanea (Jason Aloisio et al)	MAJJ	33	0	20	13	0
Moviment Graffiti	MISG	140				
Nature Trust - Malta	MGRAP	47	1	4	5	27
PermaCulture Research Foundation	NTM	5	2	0	0	0
Sharklab Malta	PCRF	17	0	0	0	0
Żibel	SHRKM	41	0	9	2	0
	ŽIB	3	0	3	0	0
15 ORGANISATIONS						
TOTAL = 2,569 E-PUBLICATIONS						

2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
15	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
2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	2	3	3	5	7	6	0	0	0	0
5	0	6	16	29	9	9	0	0	0	0
10	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
2	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	3	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	8	10	29	23	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1
85	91	55	18	21	13	21	8	9	10	19
2	3	4	0	7	2	4	6	3	2	5
200	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0
4	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
2	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	1	6	10	0	0	0	0	0
1	3	3	3	6	5	9	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

HARVESTED ANNUAL E-REPORTS OF GOVERNMENT ENTITIES 2000 - 2022

ABBR.	2022	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.
Aġenzija Sapport	ASA																								
Aġenzija Żgħażaġh	AŽ																								
Airmalta	AM																								
Arbiter for Financial Services, Office of	OAFS																								Founded in 2016.
Arts Council - Malta	ACM																								
Benefits Fraud Investigation Department	BFID																								Established in 2005 as the Benefit Fraud and Investigation Directorate.
Broadcasting Authority - Malta	BA																								Annual reports back to 1961.
Central Bank of Malta	CBM																								Back to 1998.
Commissioner for Animal Welfare	CAW																								
Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability	CRPD																								
Commission on Gender-Based Violence & Domestic Violence	CGBVDV																								Previously known as the Commission on Domestic Violence.
Council for Nurses & Midwives - Malta	CNM																								
Council for Professionals Complimentary to Medicine	CPCM																								
Customs & Excise Department	CED																								
Dental Specialist Accreditation Committee	DSAC																								Established in 2003 with the Health Care Professions Act.
Department for Fisheries & Aquaculture	DFA																								As per Commission Implementing Decisions (EU) of 2016.
Department for Industrial & Employment Relations	DIER																								Operates within the Office of the Prime Minister.
— Annual resource pack report	DIER																								
Directorate for Health Information & Research - Malta	DHIR																								
— Infectious Disease Prevention & Control Unit	DHIRIDCU																								Formerly known as the Disease Surveillance Unit until 2007.
— Infectious Disease Prevention & Control Unit (Table)	DHIRIDCU																								Formerly known as the Disease Surveillance Unit until 2007.
— Injury Data Base - (incl. Gozo General Hospital)	DHIRIDB																								Launched in September 2004, with Gozo General Hospital as pilot project.
— National Mortality Registry	DHIRNMR																								Harvested reports go back to 1998.
Embryo Protection Authority	EPA																								Constituted in 2012.
Enemalta	EM																								
Environment Resources Authority	ERA																								Reports prior to 2017 published by MEPA.
— Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment	WEEE																								
e-Skills Malta Foundation	ESMF																								Founded in
EU FUNDS																									
— European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development	EAFRD																								
— European Economic Area & Norway	EEAN																								

Annual harvested Biennial harvested Awaiting deposit Awaiting publication

ABBR.	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	REMARKS	
— European Maritime & Fisheries Fund	EMFF																								
— European Neighbourhood Instrument Cross Border Cooperation in the Mediterranean	ENICBC-MED																								
— European Regional Development Fund & Cohesion Fund	ERDF-CF																								
— European Social Fund	ESF																								
— Fund for the European Aid to the Most Deprived	FEAD																								
— Interact III	INTIII																								
— Interreg Europe	INTEEU																								
— Interreg Italia Malta	INTITMA																								
— Interreg MED	INTMED																								
— Planning & Priorities Coordination Division	PPCD																								
— SMEI	SMEI																								
Financial Intelligence Analysis Unit	FIJU																								
Foundation for Educational Services	FES																								
Foundation Social Welfare Services	FSWS																								
— Agency for Community & Therapeutic Services	ACTS																								
— Aġenzija Appoġġ	AAP																								See FSWS
— Aġenzija Sedqa	ASE																								See FSWS
— Alternative Care	ACARE																								
— Child Protection Directorate	CPD																								
— Foundation Social Welfare Services Gozo	FSWSG																								
Foundation for Tomorrow's Schools	FTS																								
Gozo Regional Development Authority	GRDA																								Founded in 2021.
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.
Housing Authority	HA																								
Human Trafficking Monitoring Committee	HTMC																								
Identity Malta	IM																								First annual report published in 2020.
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																								

ABBR.	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	REMARKS	
Malta Communications Authority	MCA																								
Malta Competition & Consumer Affairs Authority	MCCAA																								
Malta Council for Economic & Social Development	MCESD																								Council was founded in 2019.
— National Productivity Board	NPB																								Founded in 2019 and operates within MCESD.
Malta Council for Science & Technology	MCST																								
Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector	MCVS																								
Malta Crafts Council	MCC																								Absolved through Malta Craft Act 613 of November 2020.
Malta Development Bank	MDB																								
Malta Digital Innovation Authority	MDIA																								Constituted in 2019.
Malta Financial Services Authority	MFSA																								
Malta Fiscal Advisory Council	MFAC																								
Malta Freeport Corporation Limited	MFC																								
Malta Further & Higher Education Authority	MFHEA																								Formerly the National Commission for Further & Higher Education
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 the Promotion of Equality	NCPE																								
National Development & Social Fund	NDSF																								Established in 2015.
National Literacy Agency	NLA																								First annual report published in 2015.
National Obstetric Information System	NOIS																								Launched in 1999.
National Statistics Office	NSO																								
Occupational Health & Safety Authority	OHSA																								Founded in 2000, first report covering activities in 2002.

ABBR.	2022	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	OCC																								
Office of the Commissioner for Mental Health	OCMH																								Established in 2013 through the Mental Health Act.
Office of the Commissioner of Voluntary Organisations	OCVO																								
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 inax-il xahar	OPPS																								
— Miżuri ta' Simplifikazzjoni	OPPS																								
— People & Standards Division	PSD																								Division emerged from PAHRO in 2017.
— Public Administration Human Resources Office	PAHRO																								
— It-Twettiq tal-Baġit	OPPS																								
Office of the Regulator Granting of Citizenship for Exceptional Services	OGRES																								Formerly the Office of the Regulator of the Individual Investment Programme.
Pharmacy Council - Malta	PCM																								Established through the Health Care Professions Act, 2003.
— European Maritime & Fisheries Fund	EMMF																								Formerly the European Fisheries Fund Programme until 2015.
Plant Protection Directorate	PPD																								Previously known as the Plant Health Directorate.
Public Service Commission	PSC																								Established in 1960 through the Public Service Commission Regulations.
Radiation Protection Commission	RPC																								Previously known as the Radiation Protection Board.
Regulator for Energy & Water Services	REWS																								Formerly the Malta Resources Authority until 2015.
— annual Malta report to the EU	REWS-EU																								
Social Care Standards Authority	SCSA																								Founded in 2018.
Servizzi Ewropej f'Malta	SEM																								Formerly known as Malta & the European Union Action Committee (MEUSAC).
Superintendence of Cultural Heritage	SCH																								Founded in 2003.
Sustainable Development Directorate	SDD																								Established in 2012 by virtue of the Sustainable Development Act, Cap. 521
Transport Malta	TM																								Founded in 2010.
— Civil Aviation Directorate	TM-CAD																								
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																								

**SIMON
CUTAJAR**
MANAGER,
ICT SUPPORT



ICTSU REPORT

THE INFORMATION &
COMMUNICATIONS
TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT UNIT
WITHIN MALTA LIBRARIES

THE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT UNIT WITHIN MALTA LIBRARIES

The ICT Support Unit (ICTSU) is responsible for the management of all ICT-related functions within Malta Libraries including the Library Information System and other ancillary systems such as the entity's public-facing platforms including the Malta Libraries portal, the Libby App and the Iguana Library App. It is also responsible for the management of third-party suppliers, including MITA and the enterprise system's supplier, while it also supervises all hardware and software-related issues reported daily, as well as requests for the configuration of various ICT-related accesses to Malta Libraries employees. The Unit also contributes directly to the creation of the entity's ICT-related policies and is responsible for their implementation while also monitoring Malta Libraries' adherence to general Government ICT-related policies and standards. The ICTSU also supports state and Church school libraries, and other Government Department libraries that have 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.

SUPPORT TO THE NATIONAL BOOK COUNCIL

The ICTSU, on behalf of Malta Libraries, undertakes the task of issuing the Public Lending Rights report on a quarterly basis, submitting it to the National Book Council which then issues payments to Maltese authors for loans performed from libraries within the Malta Libraries network. A total of four quarterly reports are issued to the Council every year.

SUPPORT TO THE NATIONAL LITERACY AGENCY

A number of state schools have already been merged within the Malta Libraries Information System. The ICTSU gives continuous support to the respective Teacher Librarians regarding the Library Information System. This support includes the configuration of specific circulation policies that are endemic to school libraries, training, and monthly reports that are submitted to this Agency.

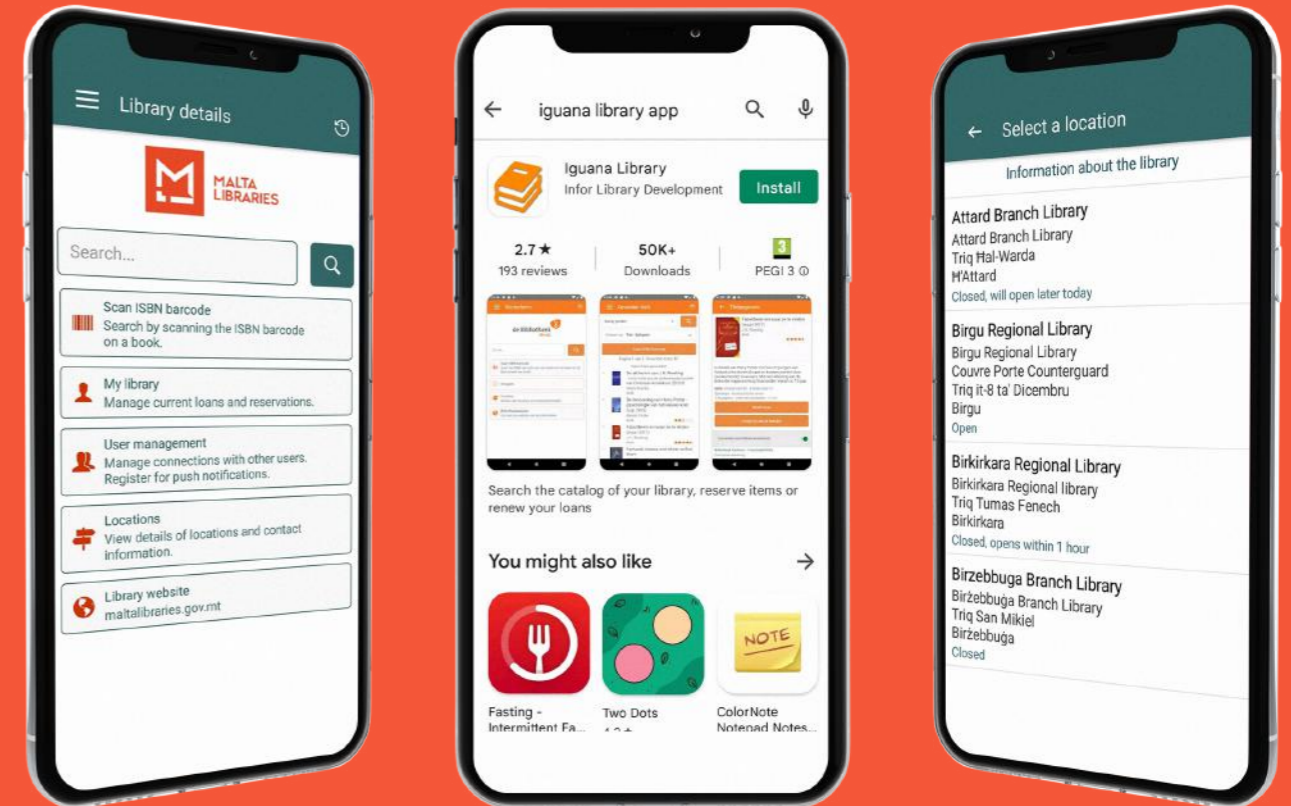
LAUNCH OF THE IGUANA LIBRARY APP

The various library services scattered on the Malta Libraries portal, including the Online Catalogue, have now been grouped together into one user-friendly app called the Iguana Library App. This app can be freely downloaded from the app store of one's handheld device. The Iguana Library App can easily be switched between the English and the Maltese languages. It is also enriched with detailed map navigation for each public library, the opening hours of each library and the respective contact details. Moreover, the app can scan the ISBN number at the back of a publication by making use of one's handheld device's inbuilt camera, to provide instant information on the availability of that same publication within Malta Libraries.

The ICTSU is responsible for the configuration of all the functionality within the app, its language profiles, and the pinning of each library location within the Google Maps platform.

MAJOR UPGRADE TO MALTA LIBRARIES' ENTERPRISE APPLICATION

The ICTSU is constantly committed to keeping all respective librarians updated and trained in all the new functionality that is added to the Library Information System. This year was no exception following a major internal upgrade that was performed during the year. Thirteen refresher sessions consisting of five-hour courses were held within the Central Public Library during October and November, for all the librarians manning the 57 Public Libraries within Malta and Gozo and the librarians of several Church schools and Government educational entities such as the Institute for Education. During these sessions, several important procedures and library policies were revised while several issues were raised and discussed by the same librarians. The ICTSU also revised its Staff Library Circulation Manual which was delivered to each librarian during the same courses.



MICROSOFT TEAMS TELEPHONY

The Central Government, through its ICT Agency - MITA, has launched its drive to consolidate all current telephony services within every Government department, entity and agency into one unique telephony infrastructure through the use of Microsoft Teams. Currently, the Central Public Library (CPL) and the National Library of Malta (NLM), are still deriving their telephony services through the PABX of the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation (MEYR), having formed part of that Ministry in the recent past. Malta Libraries has been one of the Government's pilot sites and, through the ICTSU, implemented the first part of the Microsoft Teams telephony project which included the installation of a SIP Trunk at MITA and the configuration and the provision of soft telephony to all the respective employees at the CPL and the NLM. All personnel within these two main libraries have been trained to use this new soft telephony by the ICTSU.

The new Teams Telephony Service project in these two sites will be concluded in 2023 with the provision of proper Teams-enabled telephone devices where appropriate. Once this project is completed, Malta Libraries will then move away from its current PABX dependency from MEYR and intends to expand the new telephony infrastructure throughout all the libraries within the entity. The network infrastructure at the Gozo Central Public Library was also upgraded this year to accommodate the new telephony services in the coming future.



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 Operations Department is responsible for:

- Human Resources
- 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 and Capital Expenditure
- Preparation and Delivery of the Entity's Strategic and Business plans
- Overseeing of personnel administration for library staff
- Day-to-day running of the Finance, Administration, HR, and Outreach Departments
- Management and co-ordination of the holding of cultural/literary events on Malta Libraries' premises
- Revenue-generation through the holding of activities, hire of premises and other activities.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND HR MATTERS

During 2022, 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 2022 stood at 102. This staff complement includes all employees across all units in Malta and Gozo, together with 4 RSS employees and 2 other employees from Engineering Resources Ltd. as can be seen in the Table/Figure below:



3	CEO'S OFFICE	24	PUBLIC LIBRARY MALTA
8	NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC OFFICE	3	PUBLIC LIBRARY GOZO
18	OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT	12	REGIONAL LIBRARIES
16	NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MALTA	10	MAINTENANCE
7	NATIONAL LIBRARY GOZO	1	ICT SUPPORT UNIT

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

POSITION OF DIRECTOR - LIBRARY OPERATIONS
POSITION OF DIRECTOR - NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC OFFICE
POST OF SENIOR LIBRARY ATTENDANT

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

- Retirement of one officer
- Secondment of another officer
- Three (3) employees working on reduced hours
- Twenty-eight (28) employees working on remote working
- Thirteen (13) employees on flexitime

Continued professional development of employees of Malta Libraries remains an important objective of the entity. Each year the entity, through the Operations Department encourages its employees to participate in seminars and attend courses both as part of the CPD Programme and also through IPS and at tertiary level as follows:

1. An officer completed the ECDL training through IPS
2. One officer continued a UoM Degree in Public Sector Accounting
3. One officer continued a UoM Degree in Public Management
4. One officer attended the following courses organized by IPS:
 - a. Continuous Professional Development Award in Economic Principles (2022)
 - b. Procurement by Contractual Authorities (2022)
5. Two officers started attending a UoM Degree in Librarianship

A total of 64 new Registry Files were opened in 2022. Besides, during the year under review, this unit also provided terms of reply to 39 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 2022 no new tenders were issued by the entity. However, the year 2022 saw the commencement of capital works on the following tender:

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 2022, Malta Libraries continued to operate its accounts through the tranche system as approved by the Ministry for Finance, whereby the entity received an annual allocation of EUR 3,700,000 in quarterly tranches of EUR 925,000.

The Procurement Unit was also in charge of administering the sum of EUR 160,000 granted by the Government for the acquisition of books.

€31,000

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MALTA

€99,000

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

€30,000

EBOOKS/OBOOKS

OUTREACH AND MARKETING

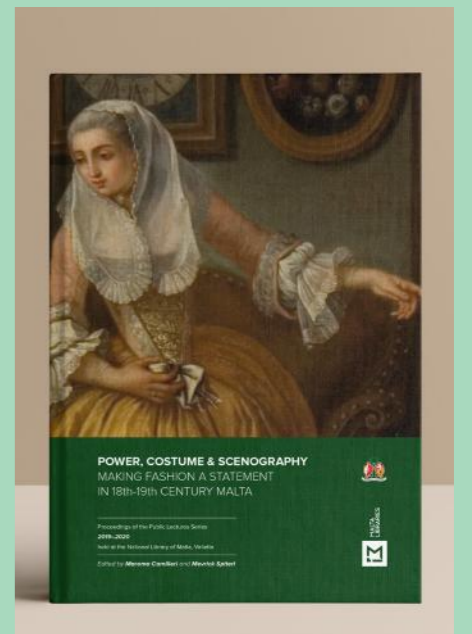
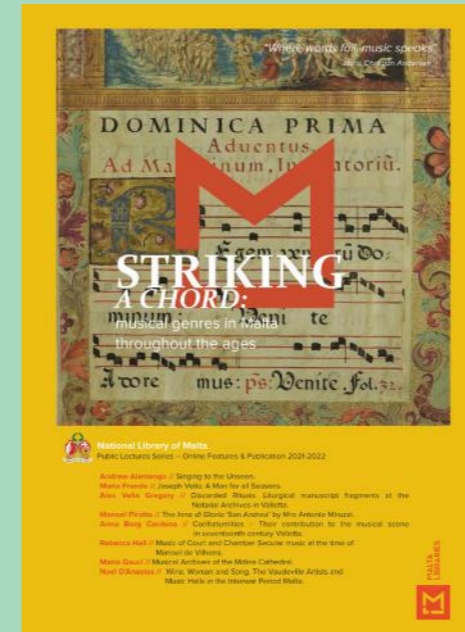
PUBLIC LECTURE FEATURES AND PUBLICATION

Back in 2018, Malta Libraries started organising an annual theme-based series of free public lectures on the grand premises of the National Library of Malta with the aim of solidifying the National Library as the centre of knowledge and learning that it has always been. Eventually, lectures also started being offered in the form of filmed documentary features, uploaded onto the National Library of Malta's Facebook page and Malta Libraries' YouTube channel for free public dissemination.

The digital push proved to be a great success and in the first half of 2022 Malta Libraries produced and published the following lecture features from the series entitled **STRIKING A CHORD: Musical Genres in Malta Throughout the Ages**: 'Discarded Rituals: Liturgical manuscript fragments at the Notarial Archives in Valletta' with Alexander Vella Gregory; 'The Inno di Gloria "San Andrea" by Mro Antonio Miruzzi' with Manoel Pirotta; 'Musical Archives of the Mdina Cathedral' with Mario Gauci; "'To delight and move the affections" - Chamber music of the late Maltese Baroque' with Rebecca Hall; 'Wine, Woman and Song - The Vaudeville Artists and Music Halls in the Interwar Period Malta' with Noel D'Anastas; and 'Confraternities: Their Contribution to the Musical Scene in 17th cent. Valletta' with Anna Borg Cardona.

With the launch of the 2022-2023 series **CREATED TO INSPIRE: 500 Years of Artistic Splendour in Malta** in November and the lifting of all post-pandemic restrictions, the National Library could finally reopen its doors to host on-site lectures. This format meant that we were able to also set up one-evening-only exhibits complementing the lectures and featuring relevant artworks and documents from the National Library collection. The series opened with an eagerly awaited lecture by Prof. Keith Sciberras entitled 'Documenting Caravaggio's Malta: What the Archives of the Order of Malta have Revealed' discussing the impact that the Archives of the Order of Malta held at the National Library have had on the research on Caravaggio's life, work and times, and was followed by 'At Home with the Ponsonbys' with Christopher Grech in December.

Moreover, in November, the hardbound publication which brought together papers from the 2019-2020 series of lectures: **POWER, COSTUME & SCENOGRAPHY: Making Fashion a Statement in 18th-19th Century Malta** was launched to coincide with the Malta Book Festival 2022. This publication – edited by series coordinators Maroma Camilleri and Mevrick Spiteri – brings together papers by Caroline Tonna, Claire Bonavia, Evelyn Baluci, Danielle Mallia, Emanuel Buttigieg and Vicki Ann Cremona and includes a lavish plates section relating to the lectures.





SUMMER PROGRAMME

Summer 2022 saw the return of the Malta Libraries' **Summer Programme** of on-site events for the young with the aim of introducing them to the priceless collections held within our libraries. Moreover, across the Public Libraries Network the **Library Champion Campaign** – a reading campaign for 0 to 17 year olds organised to encourage said readers to continue reading once the scholastic year comes to a close – was running parallel to this holistic programme.

This reading campaign together with the summer programme of events were two initiatives by which the entity managed to bring young readers closer to the physical public library following the restrictions imposed by the pandemic and encourage them to build a direct rapport with the local librarian so as to make sure that via suggestions and discussion they will grow up to always find their favourite reading material on the shelves. In addition, during the six practical and hands-on sessions led by experts at the National Library – sessions about Maltese lacemaking, book care and the art of book binding, appreciation for the printed word and image such as newspapers and maps, traditional Maltese songs and sayings – the young patrons and their parents were lucky to view some of the rarest and most precious items in our national collection which are rarely on display due to their delicate and fragile nature. Under the guidance of Annamaria Gatt, Joseph Schirò and the National Library team of experts, they were also able to try their hand at the arts and crafts in question in the hope that they would not only come to appreciate the skills involved but also the wish to hone their skills further and keep practising these endangered traditional crafts as they grow up.

On the 31st of October, in a ceremony organised at the Central Public Library in Floriana, prizes were awarded to Cara Piscopo, Cristina Pandolfino and Catherine Cole for classifying as the readers with the most borrows from their local library throughout the summer months in the following categories: 0-4, 5-9 and 10+. Following speeches by the Hon. Minister Owen Bonnici and the National Librarian and CEO, Ms Cheryl Falzon, the young readers were awarded book prizes in the presence of their parents, guardians and other Library Champion participants. On the 2nd of November, Lara Cassar, Mireya Rose Buttigieg and Luisa Cassar were awarded their prizes at the Gozo Central Public Library by the Hon. Minister for Gozo, Clint Camilleri, the Permanent Secretary Ms Joyce Dimech and the Deputy Librarian for Public Libraries, Ms Margaret Bugeja. Overall, the reading campaign attracted just under 2,000 participants in Malta and Gozo.





EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES AND COLLABORATIONS

In the year under review, the entity rekindled long-standing collaborations following a period of pandemic-related restrictions. **Mixjet il-Malti** returned to the National Library in April for the annual exhibit of original manuscripts, journals and books that were seminal in the development of the Maltese language. This exhibit is set up in collaboration with the Curriculum Department within the Ministry of Education to enliven and support the Year 10 syllabus and SEC examination. The National Library also opened its doors during **Notte Bianca** in September – allowing the general public to experience this national gem on their exploratory route throughout the capital city. In December, the Reading Room also served as an exhibition space for **MVPA (The Malta Visual And Performing Arts school)'s Media Students Open Day** – attended by students and their parents. The year ended with **Fittex il-Muza Treasure Hunt** – where the National Library served as a stop for five groups which roamed around the capital city of Valletta, snapping photos and videos while solving cultural riddles in an event organised by the National Youth Council.

Carnival and Christmas were celebrated extensively throughout the network. For Carnival 2022 we asked our patrons to **Guess the World Carnival** – an online and on-site competition which urged Malta Libraries members to visit nine libraries in person and gather clues to guess which World Carnival was being celebrated in each. Mr Edgar Paul Gili – a Sliema library patron – guessed all nine correctly and was awarded a book prize. For Christmas we all gathered at the Central Public Library for our annual all-day event **Christmas at the Library** which included several reading sessions, a hands-on craft session to design and populate Santa's own library as well as fundraising book and bake sales. In Qormi Regional Library, the Local Council together with the librarians came together to organise a Christmas reading event for their patrons.

Furthermore, the entity came together to celebrate and raise awareness about two very important causes this year. The 20th of June saw Malta Libraries staff gather to pledge commitment to diversity and inclusivity at the workplace for **Pride Month 2022**, and a fundraising activity and awareness campaign took place on the 26th of October for Pink October and Movember in line with the Annual Nationwide **Pink Oct - Mov 2022** Campaign spearheaded and coordinated by The Marigold Foundation - Malta - BOV in the Community (Bank of Valletta) to raise awareness on breast, ovarian, cervical, testicular and prostate cancer.

The Central Public Library **Monthly Shelf** in the Junior Library and the **Author Spotlight Shelf** in the Adult Library are two staff-curated initiatives which continued throughout 2022 – drawing attention to various international causes as well as local and foreign authors whose books are available to borrow from the library.

Special **school visits** and **tailored educational activities and tours** of our national and public libraries took place regularly throughout the scholastic year and as part of summer school extracurricular programmes. Special attention was given to attracting Kinder School children to the National Library with the aim of opening up hitherto inaccessible spaces for the youngest age groups.





FILMING & THIRD-PARTY EVENTS

Malta Libraries continued to open its doors to more collaborations, photoshoots and video shoots by making its venues available for filming of features, shoots, film screenings and artistic displays, to name but a few. These appointments saw us collaborating with and facilitating the projects of other departments, entities, artists, researchers and students, enabling many to channel their message across efficiently and artistically.

The following is a list of notable appointments for 2022: An episode of **Il-Muxrafija** for National TV was filmed at the National Library on the 12th of January, an interview with Mr Victor Aquilina intended for the documentary **The Women of George Cross Island** was filmed on the 7th of February and on April 6th, the National Book Council filmed its annual documentary with author **Rena Balzan**, recipient of the 2021 National Book Prize Lifetime Achievement Award. The National Library continued to host film crews from all over – be it for local TV productions such as **Kelma Kuljum** and **Venere**, to foreign documentaries as well as students who opted for the National Library as a backdrop for their projects. Emily Boulting & Kate Pink, WDR Wunderschon Malta and Mr Víctor Agramunt featured the National Library and its collections in their international multi-location documentaries over the summer.

The Reading Room also acted host for the Info Session organised by **Creative Europe Desk** Malta regarding the Circulation of EU Literary Works on the 18th of April, a **Rakkonti tal-Beltin** meet-the-local-author and artist session on the 21st, the Embassy of Spain's reading event **Celebrating Cervantes** which coincided with Libraries Day on the 23rd and **MUHS' Andrew Vella Memorial Lecture** by Dr Valeria Vanesio on the 29th.

Later in August and September, the same hall acted as venue for the signing of an **MOU between the National Book Council and Arts Council Malta**, the Polish Embassy's annual **Polish National Reading Day** event and **Pasolini 100** – a two-evening event organised by the Department of Italian and the Master of Arts in Film Studies of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Malta, in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute in Valletta, part of the 'Pasolini 100' worldwide endeavour, which celebrated 100 years since Pier Paolo Pasolini's birth including film screenings, poetry readings and lectures.

The National Book Council chose the National Library again in October to launch the 2022 edition of the **Malta Book Festival**; and December opened with **Kite's Book Launch** of Gustave R. Vincenti: an Architectural Legacy by David Ellul and **Gawhar Misjub**, a Showcase of Maltese Operatic Music organised by M.A. Vassalli College under the artistic direction of Dr Reuben Pace and featuring pieces by Giuseppe Arena, Girolomo Abos, Antonio Nani, Nicolò Isouard, Giuseppe Camilleri and Francesco Schira.

Moreover, the National Library of Malta was honoured to host three **Civil Wedding Ceremonies** and two **Wedding Photoshoots** of local and foreign couples. In 2022 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. One such appointment and collaboration outside of the National Library was **ESPLORA's festival Esperimenta Tikka Xjenza 2022** - a celebration of science in the community which took place in Couvre Porte, Birgu in July. This fun-filled science outreach event "in the community for the community" utilised a space on library premises as a satellite film screening venue.



SOCIAL MEDIA & OTHER MEDIA PLATFORMS

Malta Libraries' social media output is designed to inform as well as entertain with online campaigns intended to draw the public's attention to special collections in our care, curious facts and the many free physical and digital services offered. Moreover, campaigns such as **#teammaltalibraries** and our brand new **Local Library Spotlight** campaign celebrate the locations and the people behind them to further personalise the library experience.

Promotion of new books is an ongoing commitment and via **#LIBBYmosts** we celebrate the most borrowed authors and e-titles per month. **On this day..** and **Meet Malta's Grandmasters** bring to light curious and special items in our national collection that tell a story or shine a new light on stories we thought we already knew. The **Kont taf?** and the **Did you know?** series similarly celebrate special anniversaries and local author birthdays to further bridge the gap between the reader and literature via informative bionotes and curious fact posts on our Facebook pages and Instagram account (new page re-launched in April 2022).

The following dates were additionally celebrated via book suggestion posts to further encourage borrowers to read around the subjects or causes in question throughout the year: **International Women's Day** (8 March), **International Tea Day** (21 May), **International Yoga Day** (21 June), **International Public Service Day** (23 June), **International Asteroid Day** (30 June), **World Photography Day** (19 August), **United Nations' Global Media and Information Literacy Week** via several posts at the end of October, **United Nations' World Science Day for Peace and Development** (10 November) and **International Human Rights Day** (10 December).

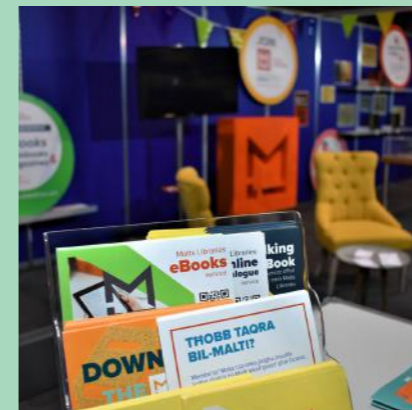
In the year under review, the entity's online presence remained especially constant and to the fore as the official face of Malta Libraries. Our social media platforms continued to flourish and our official Facebook pages remained an immediate point of contact with our patrons logging in and tackling almost as many queries as our more popular alternatives; i.e. our telephone lines and email service. Stories on Instagram helped us further cement the informative yet light-hearted tone adopted in our social media strategies while attracting an even younger and more elusive age group. Moreover, with regular article submissions to **ENCORE Arts and Culture Magazine**, interviews on **Campus FM**, promo features on **Maltati** and **Ilsienna**, in-person interviews on **Illum ma' Steph**, **Hajjitna Ktieb** and other variety TV and Radio programmes, 2022 saw us reaching out to even newer and more varied audiences from across the islands.



OUTREACH AT FESTIVALS AND OUTDOOR EVENTS

Malta Libraries kept its yearly appointments at **The Campus Book Festival / KAMPUS KOTBA** (University of Malta, Msida) in March and at **The Malta Book Festival** (MFCC, Ta' Qali) in November. On the University Campus, the entity promoted its latest publications and disseminated information about its physical and digital services. At MBF2022, on the other hand, the entity not only promoted its services and enrolled new members on site, but the Outreach Team also organised three weekday morning events targeting visiting school children. 'Inkewsu Storja', a prompted creative writing intergenerational workshop which brought together the elderly from Birżebbuġa and Luqa Day Centres and Year Seven students from St Thomas More College, Żejtun; 'The Joy of Maps', a map appreciation session involving hands-on games with Joseph Schirò and Gżira Primary Students; and the Q&A session 'When In Doubt – ASK A LIBRARIAN!' about what it takes to run a library in this day and age.

The team headed outdoors to promote its services on several other occasions in 2022 with the aim of attracting audiences that would otherwise be difficult to access. **The Libraries Week Outreach Programme** took us to the Birgu open-air market on 19th April and the Birkirkara market on the 22nd. In May, our team set up an info-stand at a village fair in **Mtarfa** organised by the respective Local Council in collaboration with the Depiro Basketball Club; and in June, yet another info point at **Safi's** 'Qamar il-Għasel' village fair. By September, Malta Libraries team members were out at the Mosta and Birgu open-air markets promoting their services as part of **European Sustainable Development Week** and in a bid to spread the word about our free services which contribute towards reaching the Global Goals for Sustainable Development in Quality Education (SDG 4).

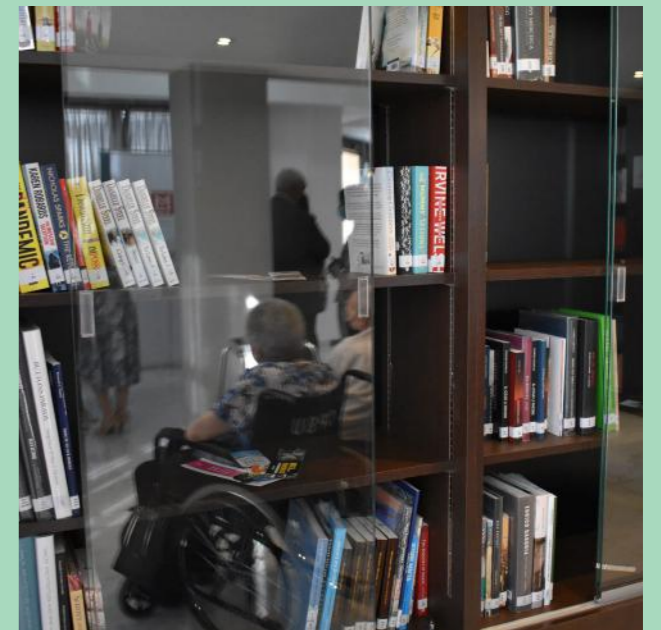


COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

Malta Libraries is aware of the vital role it plays in supporting the well-being of our ageing population. Evidence has shown that narration of specific genres that recall the past, rekindles emotions and reminiscing which 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 live reading sessions, in person and online, with a total of **28 elderly homes and day care centres**. Over the past years, attendance at reading sessions by the elderly continued to rise with the introduction of live online reading sessions in 2020. More recently, the Malta Libraries **Talking Book Service** was also disseminated in elderly homes and day care centres to supplement live sessions. Today, several elderly homes play recorded audiobooks in downtime or in between activities as well as during set 'reading-session' slots to keep those in their care adequately occupied.

On-site libraries in elderly homes have also become a real necessity. To this end Malta Libraries set up **three new libraries** in state as well as privately-run elderly homes in 2022. We now have seven elderly home libraries in total in Malta. 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 and allocated as well as ad-hoc donations from private and public sources. In 2022 these donations came from CareMalta, the Welfare Committee and Komunità Malta.

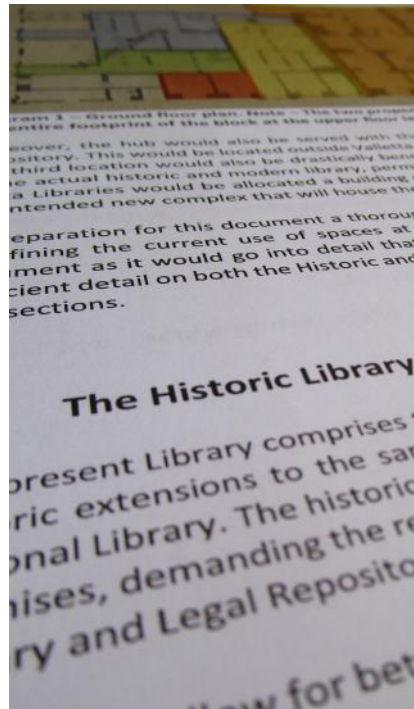


CURATORIAL AFFAIRS UNIT

During 2022, the Curatorial Affairs Unit continued to work on existing projects and also engaged in other new initiatives, all within its mission aiming at the preservation, conservation and dissemination of Malta Libraries' heritage assets. The Unit's work largely focuses on the National Library and its holdings, including the Library building itself as a major cultural heritage asset, and also on the extensive range of historic collections it houses.

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY PREMISES

The "NLM Status Report - PROJECT REQUISITE" originally presented to the Ministry for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government in October 2020, was revised and forwarded again to the Ministry in May 2022. Attempts continued to be made in addressing issues in line with this report, including one of the major aspects it deals with, namely that of lack of space at the National Library and consequently the request for additional premises. The existing premises are exhausted in terms of space and the Library can no longer accommodate new publications. Requests for the acquisition of additional premises, often including the presentation of detailed reports, continued to be made in the entity's efforts in addressing this critical situation.



In view of the holistic approach adopted in terms of the restoration and maintenance of the National Library premises in collaboration with the Restoration Directorate, a significant meeting was held with the Architect in charge at the beginning of the year, evaluating existing projects, considering new ones, and planning out a strategy for their implementation. Works continued on the project for the restoration of the roof of the Library, that will include 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 also continued, including those on the installation of a passenger lift at the Library. Unfortunately, this project has been encountering serious problems which keep hindering its completion.

Some works on the National Library facade were carried out during the year under review. These included the liaison with various entities that saw the proper lighting up of the facade at night. A wooden door on the upper floor of the Library overlooking Republic Square was repaired by the Manufacturing and Servicing Directorate within the Ministry for Public Works and Planning. Another project saw the restoration of cracks and other forms of deterioration that had been noticed and reported on a number of columns on the Library facade. These works were carried out by the Restoration Directorate under the supervision of the Architect in charge of the National Library.

CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION OF COLLECTIONS

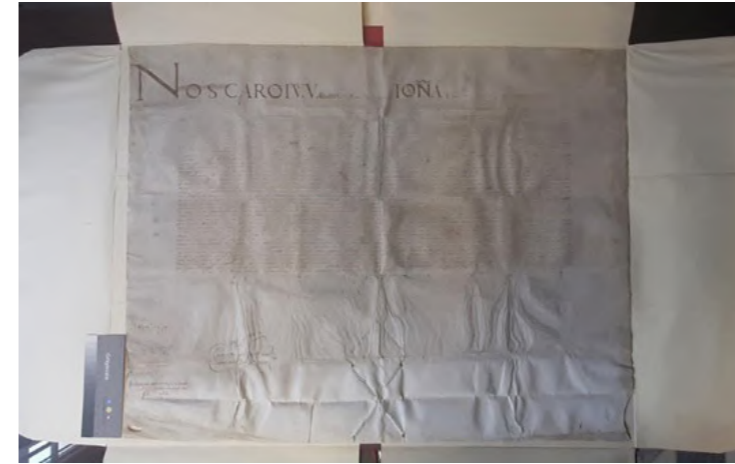
As part of the implementation of the “Policy for Preservation and Collections Care” at the National Library, detailed guidelines on the proper handling of library material were prepared. Proper handling of library and archive material is an effective and easily achieved preservation measure. The guidelines take into consideration the large variety of items housed at the National Library, and apply to all types of library material, ranging from old to new books, archive volumes, newspapers, maps and plans, manuscripts, photographs, and so on and so forth. Together with the Conservation Unit, demonstrations explaining these guidelines were given to staff members at the National Library of Malta and that of Gozo.



As in the previous year, during 2022, the focus remained largely based on preventive conservation, rather than the actual restoration of library material. This included the production of protective binding of documents, the manufacture of customised boxes and folders 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.

The Curatorial Unit worked on two separate projects related to external sponsorship for conservation of library material. A detailed proposal was made for a systematic anoxia treatment of a group of French *Cabrei*. Another proposal was drawn up for sponsorship for the Environmental Monitoring of a specific section of the National Library which houses significant collections such as Library Manuscripts and Incunabula.

The Unit was also involved in a collaborative project aimed at the preservation of a highly significant item within the Library’s collections, namely, the Deed of Donation of the islands of Malta, Gozo and Tripoli to the Order of St John by Emperor Charles V in 1530. The document and its wax seal underwent a thorough examination which resulted in the compilation of a scientific report on the state of conservation of the item.



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 library material, but 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. A number of interventions were carried out during the year in this regard, mainly together with the Maintenance Section of Malta Libraries. 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

The Bibliotheca History Research Project aims at conducting an extensive and in-depth study of the history of the National Library building and its use. During the year under review, research continued to be carried out through primary archival sources, located at the National Library, the National Archives of Malta and also at the Archives of the Public Works Department respectively.

Following a call for expressions of interest to volunteer in the Bibliotheca History Research Project, seven candidates were selected to participate in the Project. These volunteers were given professional hands-on training in the reading of archival sources and in the management of resulting data. At the same time, they provided a valid contribution to the Project through their engagement. As such, this initiative proved to be a success, benefitting both the volunteers themselves for the training and opportunities they received, as well as the Project in terms of the significant quantity of work the volunteers carried out in an area largely lacking resources.



THE NATIONAL LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

The Curatorial Unit, in consultation with the Deputy Librarian of the National Library, Ms Maroma Camilleri, was responsible for the acquisition and documentation of a number of Melitensia items, aiming to continue enriching the Library's collections. These included books, maps, engravings, old prints and photographs, which were acquired through international auctions or direct purchase.

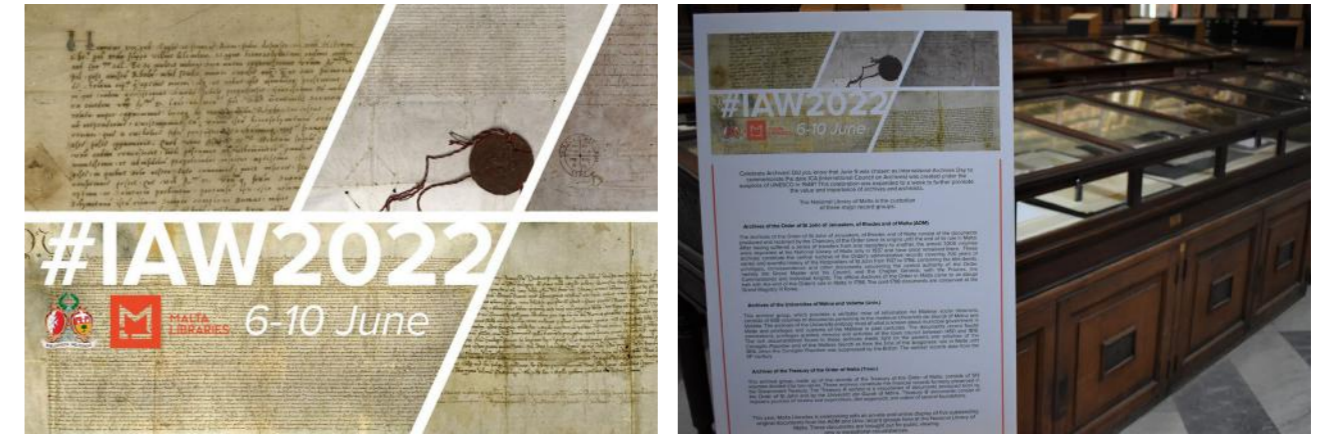


SOCIAL MEDIA AND OUTREACH

In 2022, the Curatorial Affairs Unit, together with the Deputy Librarian and the Outreach Unit, worked on several initiatives. To celebrate International Archives Day on 9th June, the Curatorial Unit set up a small yet highly significant exhibition at the National Library, which was also disseminated online. For the occasion, five outstanding original documents from the Archives of the Order of St John as well as from the Archives of the Universitas of Mdina and Valletta were displayed together for the very first time. These precious documents are rarely exhibited because of their extraordinary historical value. The documents on exhibit were the following:

- “Piae Postulatio Voluntatis” bull of Pope Paschal II, 15 February 1113 (AOM 6)
- The Deed of Donation of Malta, Gozo and Tripoli to the Order of St John by Emperor Charles V., 23 March 1530 (AOM 70)
- Letter from King Henry VIII of England congratulating Grand Master Fra' Philippe Villiers de l'Isle Adam on the acquisition of Malta, Gozo and Tripoli, 22 November 1530 (AOM 57, f. 13)

- Diploma by King Frederick III of Sicily in favour of Francesco Gatto, Castellan of Malta, 1372 (Univ. 7)
- Charter issued by King Alfonso V of Aragon in favour of the Maltese Islands, 20 June 1428 (Univ. 3, doc. 12)



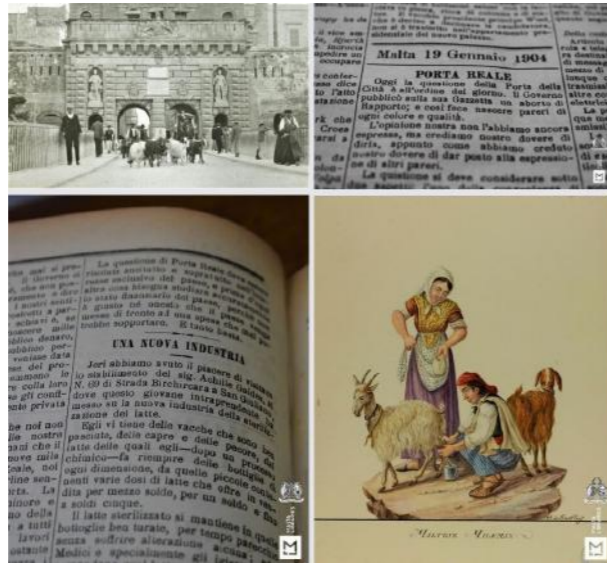
The Unit was extensively involved in the preparation and setting up of the exhibition “SUNETTI: Minn Fomm u Qalb il-Poplu”. Apart from its contribution as part of the curatorial team of the exhibition, the Unit was responsible for the actual setting up of the exhibition itself, for the liaison with the designer of the exhibition and its catalogue, as well as for the provision of texts and other material to enhance the exhibition and enable its better understanding and appreciation.



Together with the Deputy Librarian, the coordination of the National Library's Public Lectures Series for 2021-2022, entitled 'STRIKING A CHORD: Musical Genres in Malta Throughout the Ages' was continued, while also embarking on the coordination of the 2022-2023 Series: 'Created to Inspire: 500 years of artistic splendour in Malta'. In 2022, 'POWER, COSTUME & SCENOGRAPHY: Making Fashion a Statement in 18th - 19th Century Malta', edited by the coordinators of the Lecture Series, Ms Maroma Camilleri and Mr Mevrick Spiteri, was published, bringing together papers from the 2019-2020 Lecture Series with the same title.

During 2022, the Curatorial Unit continued to provide content for dissemination on Malta Libraries social media, including a series of posts, started the previous year, 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 was 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.



Science, Innovation & Modernisation

Science, Innovation & Modernisation – follow this series of monthly posts from the #NationalLibraryofMalta highlighting curious facts and noteworthy endeavours in Malta's transition into the modern period.

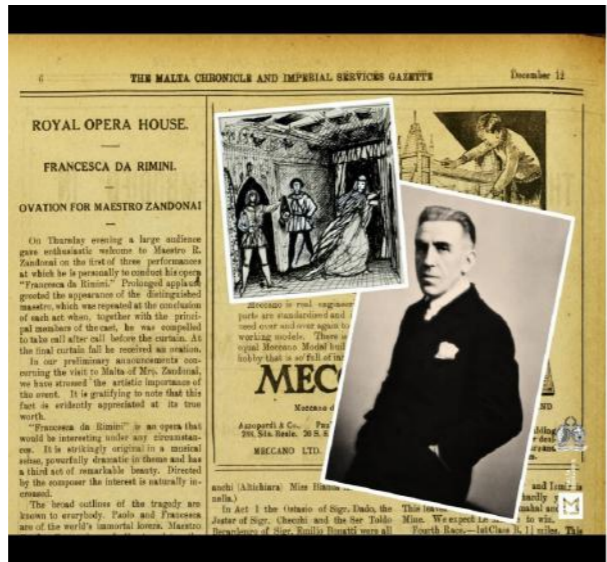
The National Library of Malta's newspaper and periodical collection is arguably the biggest and most complete on the islands. To research the collection one can consult A.F. Sapiezna's 'A checklist of Maltese periodicals and newspapers', (Malta, 1977) and its update by N. Camilleri and R. Petrocchino 'Supplement to A checklist of Maltese periodicals and newspapers covering the years 1974-1989' (Malta, 1990), copies of which are available in the Reading Room.

Information on more recent newspapers and periodicals is available on the National Library of Malta's online catalogue: <https://www.maltalibraries.gov.mt/guano/www/mem/di/vu:c973862-014a-40c2-b06b-04e273175e0&searchProfile=N1>

For on-site appointments call 25803550 or email customercare.nlm@govt.mt. See less 23 February 2021

You, Joanne Sciberras and 2 others 4

Like Comment Share



National Library of Malta

On this day ... in 1931

On the evening of Thursday 10th December 1931, Maestro Riccardo Zandonai (1883-1944) was enthusiastically received by the audience at the Royal Opera House in Valletta. The maestro's arrival at the theatre prompted several lengthy applause. Mro. Zandonai's impending visit had been announced via special coverage in the days leading up to his arrival. The visit to Malta by the distinguished maestro brought us three performances at the Royal Opera House, one of which was to be Zandonai's own opera 'Francesca da Rimini' with a libretto by Tito il Ricordi and based on the tragedy by Gabriele D'Annunzio, which was first performed in Turin in 1914. The newspaper article described it as: "an opera that would be interesting under any circumstances", let alone since this Malta appointment was to be conducted by Zandonai himself. 'Francesca da Rimini' (or as it was also known - 'Francesca da Polenta') revolves around the story of a medieval Italian noblewoman known for having murdered her husband, Giovanni Malatesta. Set in three acts, the tragedy set in the 13th century performed at the Opera House under Mr. Zandonai's direction was strikingly original in a musical sense, powerfully dramatic in theme and sprinkled with moments of remarkable beauty described in florid passages: "There are moments when the music rises like a tide, taken from string to reed and reed to brass, and back to unbelievable pianissimo; a moment when harp and oboe alone have a strain before it passed to horns and



REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021
EXCERPTS FROM THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS

MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

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 accounting 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 2021, 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 2021, 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: 28th October 2022

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

	NOTES	2021 €	2020 €
Revenue	3	3,489,557	3,262,702
Cost of sales		-	-
Net Revenue		3,489,557	3,262,702
Administrative expenses		(3,599,638)	(3,409,732)
Other operating income	4	137,779	126,152
Operating surplus/(defecit)		27,698	(20,878)
Other interest receivable		-	6
Surplus/(defecit) before tax		27,698	(20,872)
Income tax	6	-	(1)
Retained surplus/(defecit) for the year		27,698	(20,873)
Accumulated (loss) brought forward		(59,900)	(39,027)
Accumulated (loss) carried forward		(32,202)	(59,900)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 2021

	NOTES	2021 €	2020 €
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Heritage assets	7	69,996	69,996
Property, plant and equipment	8	682,016	253,206
		752,012	323,202
Current assets			
Trade and other receivables	10	56,781	55,056
Cash and bank balances		170,980	250,817
		227,761	305,873
Total assets		979,773	629,075
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Reserves			
Capital expenditure fund		508,881	200,000
Accumulated fund		(32,202)	(59,900)
Total equity		476,679	140,100
Non-current liabilities			
Deferred income		207,417	203,446
Current liabilities			
Borrowings	11	6,602	-
Trade and other payables	12	289,075	285,529
		295,677	285,529
Total equity and liabilities		979,773	629,075

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 22nd October 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 2022

(UNAUDITED)

ACCOUNT	ACTUAL
Income	
Government Subvention for Recurrent Expenditure	3,700,000
Income generated from own operations	31,192
Other contributions from other public administration	113,783
Total	3,844,975
Other Income	
Other Grants Received	0
Expenditure	
50100 (SALARIES)	2,656,330
60100 (UTILITIES)	48,525
60200 (MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES)	100,006
60300 (REPAIR AND UPKEEP)	41,317
60400 (RENTS)	44,475
60600 (OFFICE SERVICES)	38,269
60700 (TRANSPORT)	18,955
60900 (INFORMATION SERVICES)	4,583
61000 (CONTRACTUAL SERVICES)	247,624
61100 (PROFESSIONAL SERVICES)	394,110
61200 (TRAINING)	346
61300 (HOSPITALITY)	1,389
61400 (INCIDENTAL EXPENSES)	766
9998 (Other Expenses)	22,514
Depreciation	203,893
Total	3,823,102
(Deficit)/Surplus for the period	21,874



MALTA
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ANNUAL
REPORT
2022

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