



MALTA  
LIBRARIES



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



ES



MALTA  
LIBRARIES

# CO TEN

## Malta Libraries

Annual report 2023 / Malta Libraries. – Valletta : Malta Libraries, 2024.

124 p. : col. ill., charts, facsim., maps, ports. ; 21 cm.

ISBN 978-99957-932-0-3 (print), 978-99957-932-1-0 (eBook).

1. Malta Libraries      2. Libraries-Malta-Statistics.  
3. National Libraries-Malta-Statistics.      4. Public libraries-Malta-Statistics.  
I. Title.

027.04585-dc2018ed.

National Bibliography of Malta Registration Number – **MT20240400**

# CONTENTS

**06**

MISSION STATEMENT  
& FUNCTIONS

**08**

FOREWORD FROM  
THE CEO

**10**

NATIONAL LIBRARY  
OF MALTA

**30**

PUBLIC LIBRARIES'  
NETWORK

**54**

GOZO  
LIBRARIES

**62**

NATIONAL  
BIBLIOGRAPHIC  
OFFICE

**78**

ICTSU

**84**

OPERATIONS  
DEPARTMENT

**117**

FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS

# MISSION STATEMENT

MALTA LIBRARIES ACT 2011

“

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.

# 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.

**CHERYL  
FALZON**  
NATIONAL  
LIBRARIAN  
& CEO



# FOREWORD FROM THE CEO



I am pleased to present Malta Libraries' Annual Report for 2023, where we reflect on the successes of the past year which proved to be a testament to our unwavering commitment to knowledge, community, and literacy. In a rapidly changing world, our libraries remain relevant institutions offering learning opportunities, while acting as sanctuaries where individuals from all walks of life can come together to discover, grow, and thrive. This report illustrates how Malta Libraries continued to work towards enhancing users' experiences through sterling services as well as outreach activities including events, public lectures, workshops, and other educational sessions.

Over the past year, the National Library has experienced ongoing success, welcoming 2,187 researchers, marking a slight uptick over the previous year. Additionally, the library organised a series of public lectures titled 'Created to Inspire: 500 Years of Artistic Splendour in Malta', featuring presentations by renowned art historians and experts. These lectures ran until June 2023. In November, a new lecture series titled 'Knowledge in the Making: towards an Intellectual History of Early Modern Malta' commenced. This series featured eight lectures by different scholars focusing on various aspects of Malta's intellectual history from the 17th to the 18th century. Concurrently, the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library (HMML) continued its project, 'France and Malta in the Age of Revolution, 1775-1815', which began in 2018. The project's goal is to digitise and catalogue records from European archives dating back to 1775-1815, creating a comprehensive digital resource for studying Malta during the Age of Revolution.

2023 was a successful year for the public libraries with continued investment in collection development which resulted in a notable increase of over 25,000 checkouts of library material over the previous year. The Central Public Library (CPL) remained the most popular library registering more than 13,000 visitors and over 100,000 physical books borrowed. It was also an important year for the CPL as we

celebrated the fortieth anniversary of the library's move to its current location in Floriana in June 1983. This significant historical event was celebrated through a number of activities as well as the public unveiling of the initial phase of renovations of the Adult Library which has been transformed to a state-of-the-art hall equipped with modern amenities in conformity with health and safety standards.

Similarly, our libraries in Gozo also experienced an eventful year, with the three branch libraries of San Lawrenz, Għarb and Żebbuġ undergoing full renovation and relaunching to the public as state-of-the-art community hubs that their communities deserve. Other Local Councils followed suit and the Qala, Ghajnsielem and Nadur libraries are also undergoing refurbishment and are projected to open again in 2024.

It was a busy year too for the National Bibliographic Office, with much achieved in recovering retrospective material as well as cataloguing. This rise in retrieved material together with current published material through legal deposit has created spatial challenges for the Unit. Consequently, Malta Libraries will be setting out to explore new alternatives for storing material while still making it accessible to researchers.

None of this would be possible without our dedicated staff and volunteers. Their passion, creativity, and tireless efforts are the driving force behind our success, enabling us to create an inclusive and vibrant space where curiosity knows no bounds.

As we look ahead to the future, we remain committed to serving as a catalyst for lifelong learning, a hub for cultural exchange, and a catalyst for positive change in our community. Together, let us continue to write the next chapter in the rich and storied history of our libraries.

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



# NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MALTA

During the year under review, the National Library continued to register a number of successes, thanks to the hard work carried out by the small but dedicated staff within the various sections that fall under the responsibility of the Deputy Librarian. Throughout the year, every effort was made to encourage and support research and maximum attention was given to the requirements of our patrons. With Covid-19 restrictions definitively behind us, we strove to provide an excellent service, whilst maintaining the post-pandemic practice of acceding to the library for research purposes by appointment, although researchers who turned up without an appointment were generally accepted as well. Notwithstanding this apparent limitation, the number of persons attending the library to conduct research increased this year and visitor numbers also rose significantly.

Embellishment works in the Reading Room continued to be carried out during the year. The shelves containing the sheaf catalogues were rendered more presentable by having the heavy-duty wheels covered by a plinth, while steel cross braces were inserted to strengthen the structures. The signs printed on paper have been removed and will be replaced by copper ones in the near future. The shelves in the area designated for the passenger lift, which were previously open with the books being liable to theft due to their being situated in the passageway to the patrons' restroom, were this year fitted with lockable doors and chicken-wire panels, manufactured by the Maintenance section of Malta Libraries. Two almost complete sets of Government Gazettes as well as Electoral Registers were placed on these shelves by students during the summer period. They also sorted and listed extra Melitensia books which accrued to the library in recent years and these publications were also placed on the shelves in this area.

The period 2022-2023 saw the organisation of the series of public lectures entitled 'Created to inspire: 500 Years of Artistic Splendour in Malta'. The talks were presented by established art historians and experts in the artistic field and continued until June 2023. In November, a new series was launched under the title 'Knowledge in the Making: towards an Intellectual History of Early Modern Malta'. The series, coordinated by library staff Maroma Camilleri and Mevrick Spiteri as well as by Prof. Jean-Paul de Lucca from

the Department of Philosophy at the University of Malta, consisted of eight lectures by as many scholars focusing on different aspects of Malta's intellectual history from the 17th to the 18th century. The series will be concluded in May 2024. Meanwhile, November 2023 saw the publication of the proceedings of the third series of National Library lectures, held in the form of online features in 2020-2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, entitled *Malta's Road to Autonomy: 100 years on from the 1921 Self-Government*.

Meanwhile, the project by the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library (HMML), initiated in 2018 and entitled *France and Malta in the Age of Revolution, 1775-1815*, proceeded steadily. The project aimed to digitise and catalogue records dating from 1775 to 1815 from various European archives in order to create a single digital online resource for the study of Malta in the Age of Revolution. A digitisation studio was set up on the National Library premises for the purposes of this project. The material selected from the National Library of Malta consisted of sections of the Archives of the Order of Malta pertaining to France as well as the entire Correspondence series. To date, over 300 volumes from this series have been scanned. The digitised images are uploaded by the Malta Study Center on vHMML.org, following the agreement signed between Malta Libraries and the Malta Study Center in 2021, and are available for consultation.

## READERS' SERVICES

The Reading Room is open by appointment to researchers who opt to visit the library personally to conduct their research. The staff, consisting of three Senior Assistant Librarians, is always on hand to assist users and to provide guidance to the appropriate sources of information while also performing back-office duties in the library's stacks and off-limit areas. As professionals, the librarians dealt with both verbal and electronic researchers' queries and guided them to the appropriate finding aids according to the nature of the queries. They completed the service by editing and sending via WeTransfer the images ordered by users. They also liaised with the Conservation and Digitisation units to

ensure a smooth workflow and provide an optimum service to patrons. In addition to the above, they provided guided tours for students, school children and exclusive visitors.

During 2023, the library welcomed a total of 2,187 researchers, a slight increase over last year with an average of seven per day. The number of items requested in the Reading Room totalled 5,289 which translates into an average of 18 per day and two items per user. Requests reached their peak in March with a total of 591 items, an average of 19 per day of opening during that month. As always, the majority of users consulted newspaper material with a total of 2,737 requests. Consultation of Melitensia material remained significant with 1,043 requests, followed by 886 orders for volumes from the Archives of the Order of Malta. Reading Room staff fetched 438 Library Manuscripts and 83 volumes from the Adami collection. The Archives of the Università drew an unprecedented total of 62 requests for consultation while the Treasury Record group occupy the last place this year with a total of 40 requests.

#### REQUESTED ITEMS 2022

|              | AOM        | TREAS.    | UNIV.     | AD        | LIBR. MSS  | MELIT.      | N/PAPERS    | TOTAL       |
|--------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Jan.         | 18         | 2         | 2         | 17        | 18         | 127         | 154         | <b>338</b>  |
| Feb.         | 16         | 2         | 2         | 10        | 41         | 44          | 238         | <b>353</b>  |
| Mar.         | 155        | 4         | 10        | 13        | 77         | 63          | 269         | <b>591</b>  |
| April        | 68         | 5         | 19        | 9         | 53         | 109         | 236         | <b>499</b>  |
| May          | 108        | 2         | 12        | 4         | 41         | 92          | 317         | <b>576</b>  |
| June         | 82         | 2         | 4         | 5         | 68         | 114         | 188         | <b>463</b>  |
| July         | 163        | 2         | 3         | 2         | 19         | 76          | 200         | <b>465</b>  |
| Aug.         | 41         | 2         | 2         | 2         | 22         | 93          | 272         | <b>434</b>  |
| Sept.        | 13         | 5         | 2         | 2         | 34         | 58          | 207         | <b>321</b>  |
| Oct.         | 79         | 3         | 2         | 3         | 12         | 115         | 303         | <b>517</b>  |
| Nov.         | 98         | 5         | 2         | 13        | 25         | 83          | 217         | <b>443</b>  |
| Dec.         | 45         | 6         | 2         | 3         | 28         | 69          | 136         | <b>289</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>886</b> | <b>40</b> | <b>62</b> | <b>83</b> | <b>438</b> | <b>1043</b> | <b>2737</b> | <b>5289</b> |



During the year under review, the library received 14 new scholars and students who were interested in consulting mainly the Archives of the Order of Malta or rare items from the library's collections. Many were MA or PhD students conducting research for their theses. As per the National Library's policy, students sent letters of recommendation from their universities or recognised academic institutions while established scholars submitted their CVs with some donating copies of their publications to the library.

Requests for information reached the library not only through personal contact but also via telephone, email, and social media, mainly Facebook. The year 2023 witnessed the arrival of 813 requests, over half of which (458) came from Malta. Others were submitted mainly by Italian (111), French (92), and UK (49) scholars, students or general public. Emails reached the library from distant countries such as India, China and Japan. The majority requested digital copies from the library collections, with French and Italians focusing on the Archives of the Order and others seeking information from newspapers and books. Sometimes extensive research was required in order to deal with a request. Other requests simply asked for information related or non-related to the library.

#### QUERIES 2022

---

|            |         |           |                               |          |  |          |   |
|------------|---------|-----------|-------------------------------|----------|--|----------|---|
| <b>458</b> | MALTA   | <b>13</b> | GREECE                        | <b>5</b> | SPAIN  | <b>1</b> | ARGENTINA<br>CZECHIA<br>DENMARK<br>ICELAND<br>LEBANON<br>MONTENEGRO<br>PHILIPPINES<br>SWEDEN<br>SWITZERLAND |
| <b>111</b> | ITALY   | <b>9</b>  | US                            | <b>3</b> | BULGARIA<br>CHINA  |          |   |
| <b>92</b>  | FRANCE  | <b>8</b>  | NETHERLANDS                   | <b>2</b> | AUSTRIA<br>INDIA<br>POLAND<br>PORTUGAL<br>ROMANIA<br>TUNISIA<br>TURKEY |          |   |
| <b>49</b>  | UK      | <b>7</b>  | CANADA                        |          |  |          |   |
| <b>14</b>  | GERMANY | <b>6</b>  | AUSTRALIA<br>HUNGARY<br>JAPAN |          |  |          |   |
| <b>813</b> | TOTAL   |           |                               |          |  |          |   |

---



Over the past year, the Digitisation Studio continued to scan a number of newspapers and books from the National Library collection. This year a total of 26,921 new images were captured as per readers' demands. The digital images of the requested material were sent via WeTransfer. Apart from the work carried out for researchers, the Studio scanned 277 volumes from the library's collections, totalling 89,242 images.

#### DIGITISED IMAGES 2022

|              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| January      | 583           |
| February     | 1340          |
| March        | 6934          |
| April        | 1635          |
| May          | 3555          |
| June         | 1312          |
| July         | 1143          |
| August       | 539           |
| September    | 3043          |
| October      | 822           |
| November     | 3548          |
| December     | 2467          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>26,921</b> |

# ACQUISITIONS

One of the National Library's most important roles is to keep developing both its antique and contemporary collections in order to offer a wider array of material for consultation by its patrons. During the year under review, the bulk of the funds available for book purchases was spent on items from the prestigious collection of Dr Albert Ganado. In March, the National Library acquired two sets of items which were very significant for the enrichment of the library's Melitensia collection. The first consisted of a set of World War I newspapers by German, Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman prisoners-of-war in Malta as well as rare publications on Malta and the Italian Irredentist movement which advocated the incorporation of the Maltese Islands with Italy. The second set of items consisted of a significant number of loose maps which the library did not have among its holdings. In addition to the maps, the library acquired several books complete with maps, as the same books present in the library's possession unfortunately lacked the maps. The amount of €53,060 was spent on both sets together.

Further acquisitions of 164 Melitensia and rare books were made from other private sources in Malta and this added up to €4,824. Worthy of note were some rare wartime issues of the *Archivio Storico di Malta*, purchased in October 2023. Another important item was a manuscript poem by Dun Karm Psaila dedicated to St Stephen, acquired from a private source for €800 in July 2023.

The remaining available funds were utilised to purchase extra copies of local publications published in 2023. A number of 243 books were acquired for the sum of €7,300 during the year.







The National Library also purchased three important items from overseas auctions, as follows:

#### JULY 2023

- Manuscript letter by Charles de Pougens dated 9th January 1812 mentioning M.A. Vassalli, from L'Autographe S.A., 24, Rue du Cendrier, c/o Baumer & Cie S.A., CH 1201, Genève, Switzerland  
Total cost including shipping: €365.00

#### SEPTEMBER 2023

- DE ROSSI. *Cronologia de i gran maestri dello spedale della sacra religione militare di S. Gio. Gerosolimitano e dell'ordine del santo sepolcro oggi detti di Malta*, from Bado e Mart Auctions SAS, Via Dei Soncin, 28, 35122, Padova, Italy  
Total cost including buyer's premium and shipping: €4,080

#### ACQUISITIONS 2023

| ITEM   | NUMBER | COST              |
|--|--------|-------------------|
| 2023 local publications  | 243    | €7,300.00         |
| Melitensia and rare books from private sources                     | 164    | €4,824            |
| Maps, newspapers and rare books from Dr Albert Ganado's collection | 118    | €53,060.00        |
| Items acquired from foreign auctions and antiquarians              | 2      | €4,445.00         |
| <b>Total</b>   |        | <b>€69,629.00</b> |

NOVA, ED ESATTA  
DESCRIZIONE  
DEL  
**SERAGLIO**  
DEL  
**GRAN TVRCO**

*Con tutte le sue parti interiori, minutamente distinte, e spiegate secondo lo stato presente in cui si troua sotto l'Imperio di Mahomet IV. boggidì regnante.*

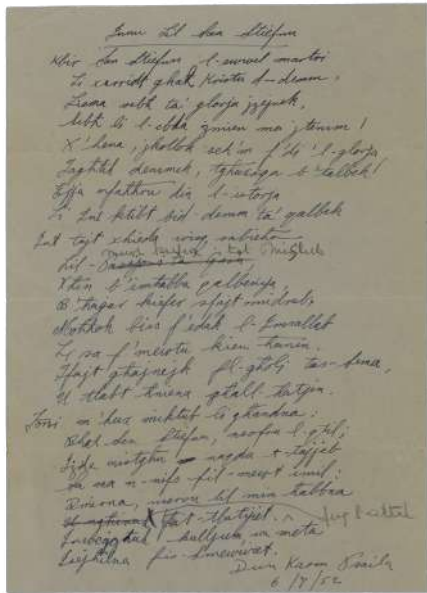
Due sono descritte molte singolarità, che da pochi, ò certamente da niuno, possono essere state vedute, e considerate, e perciò non possono senza fauole, o aggiunte esser messe in luce da alcun'altro prima d' hora.

*Publicata già in lingua Francese  
dal Sig. Tauernier,*

E trasportata nouamente nell'Italiana dal  
Sig. Filippo Bagliotti Nob. Patrizio  
Nouarese.

IN MILANO, per Ambrogio Ramellati, 1687.

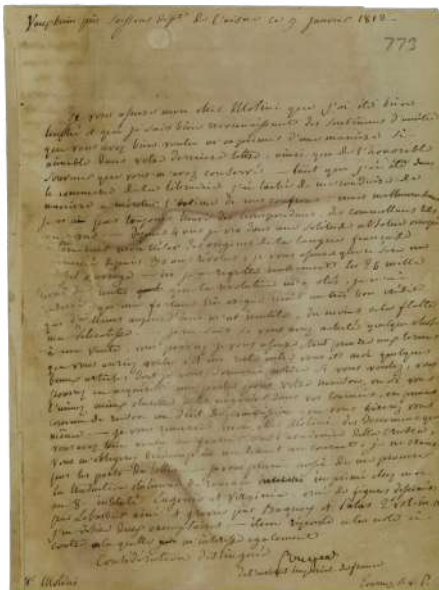




## DONATIONS

Throughout the year under review, the National Library was gifted with a number of donations especially of recent publications by foreign authors. Besides these, the library received two important items from Maltese donors. In August, Mr George Azzopardi donated a rare work entitled *Nova, ed Esatta Descrizione del Seraglio del Gran Turco / Publicata già in lingua Francese dal Sig. Tauernier* (Milano, 1687). The book is an Italian translation of the original French work by merchant and traveller Jean-Baptiste Tavernier entitled *Nouvelle Relation de l'Intérieur du Sérail du Grand Seigneur*. The book, which describes the inner workings of the Ottoman Emperor's palace, was translated into Italian by Filippo Bagliotti and published in Milan by Ambrogio Ramellati in 1687.

In December, Mr Stephen Degiorgio regaled the National Library with a set of ten undated black-and-white photographs showing parts of the library's Reading Room. These were a very precious addition to the collection of old photos of the library as they help to shed light on the appearance of the Reading Room in the different phases of its history.





# CONSERVATION UNIT

The conservation of library material is of primary importance given the rarity and fragility of some of the holdings. The National Library's Conservation Unit carries out preventive conservation as much as possible and does its utmost to keep abreast with the latest techniques in this respect. During the past year, the services of SalvArti, a professional conservation company, were once more engaged to implement a disinfestation project in the reference sections by using anoxia treatment which is the most effective method of pest control as it does not cause any harm to the books. A total of 106 boxes of books were sent for disinfestation while 120 metres of wooden shelving were cleaned and treated.

Apart from this, the Conservation Unit continued to carry out its day-to-day tasks. A total of 47 archival manuscripts underwent repair while 216 Melitensia works were repaired and rebound. The staff bound 87 volumes of daily newspapers and restored 59 older volumes of newspapers. They also constructed 41 preservation boxes in which to conserve artefacts. A total of 298 periodicals and Melitensia books were bound in hardback volumes. As regards flat works, 45 maps and plans were cleaned and mounted.

The Conservation staff also handled the mounting of the displays of library material accompanying the monthly public lectures. They were actively involved especially in the mounting and design of the exhibition 'In the Footsteps of the Hospitallers: 900 years of Chivalry, Faith and Charity' in late November.

Seven Erasmus students were hosted by the Conservation Unit during the year and were taught basic bookbinding skills and good book conservation practices. Worthy of note were two specialised students, Elizabeth Bocksbaum and Lisa Fumarola, respectively a conservator and a bookbinder/gilder, who each spent over a month at the Conservation Unit, the former shadowing conservation projects and the latter practising her skills in bookbinding and gilding on National Library volumes. Their experiences proved to be highly satisfactory and the tasks they performed were deemed to be of excellent standard.

During the year, the Conservation Unit staff cleaned and fumigated 120 metres of wooden shelving as well as furniture and wooden showcases.

The Conservation Unit staff also performed sundry other tasks, such as assisting Reading Room staff in the re-arrangement of furniture in the Reading Room and transporting boxes of National Library volumes to SalvArti Ltd for fumigation purposes.



CONSERVATION UNIT 2023

**BINDING OF 298 MELITENSIA BOOKS AND PERIODICALS**

**REPAIR AND REBINDING OF 216 MELITENSIA BOOKS**

**REPAIR AND REBINDING OF 47 MANUSCRIPT VOLUMES**

**NEW BINDING OF 87 VOLUMES OF DAILY NEWSPAPERS**

**REPAIR AND REBINDING OF 59 VOLUMES OF OLD DAILY NEWSPAPERS**

**MANUFACTURING OF 41 CUSTOMISED PRESERVATION ACID-FREE BOXES**

**CLEANING AND MOUNTING OF 45 MAPS AND PLANS**

**CLEANING, FUMIGATION OF BOOKS AND DISINFESTATION OF 120 METRES OF WOODEN SHELVING**

**MOUNTING OF 'IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE HOSPITALLERS' EXHIBITION AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY**

**MOUNTING OF DISPLAYS OF LIBRARY MATERIAL ACCOMPANYING PUBLIC LECTURES**

**CONDUCTING VISTS FOR STUDENTS OF FLORIANA PRIMARY SCHOOL AND FOR STUDENTS FROM SECONDARY SCHOOLS ON THE OCCASION OF THE MIXJET IL-MALTI ACTIVITY**

**TRAINING AND SUPERVISING SEVEN ERASMUS STUDENTS IN THE TECHNIQUES OF BOOK CLEANING, BINDING AND REPAIR**



710\* Bottle Gre  
7104  
Product Nr. K03  
Width (cm): 10  
Length (m): 90  
Batch No.: 6229  
Roll Nr. 19



# EXHIBITIONS

The National Library organises one major exhibition annually. This year it was decided to focus once more on the history of the Order of St John, to honour the memory of the late Ven. Bailiff Fra' John Edward Critien, Grand Prior of Rome, on the first anniversary of his passing. The exhibition, entitled 'In the Footsteps of the Hospitallers: 900 years of Chivalry, Faith and Charity' was inaugurated on 1st December by Ms Cheryl Falzon, National Librarian and CEO Malta Libraries. The display consisted of documents, books and *objets d'art*, mostly from the National Library collections. Complementing the archival documents were manuscripts from the Library Manuscript collection, books, as well as objects kindly loaned by entities and private individuals. Following a chronological sequence, the exhibition illustrated the story of what are today known as the Knights of Malta, starting from their humble beginnings in Jerusalem under their founder Gerard. It was divided into six main sections featuring the various places where the Knights had their headquarters throughout their history. Their role as a lay religious order and their dual mission of defending the Catholic faith and serving the needy are also highlighted. Although the exhibition focused mainly on the Order's past history, it also illustrated its important role today in providing humanitarian assistance to children, the homeless, the disabled, the elderly, refugees, and lepers around the world without distinction of ethnicity or religion. natural disasters, epidemics and war. The exhibition was open to visitors until the end of February 2024.

During the year under review, the National Library was also invited to collaborate in the organisation of exhibitions set up elsewhere. Between 21st February and 30th April 2023, Heritage Malta, in collaboration with the Office of the President and the Akkademja tal-Malti organised an exhibition at the National Museum of Archaeology documenting the recognition of Maltese as an official language. Malta Libraries participated with items from its collections, including works by Ignazio Saverio Mifsud, G.F.P. Agius de Soldanis and Francesco Wizzino.

The Diocese of Gozo requested the collaboration of Malta Libraries on the occasion of an exhibition held between 6th





and 31st May to illustrate the translations of the Bible into Maltese. The activity, entitled '*Shema – Lejl Imdawwal*', was held in the basement of the Diocesan Curia, Victoria, Gozo and included original manuscripts by Prof. P.P. Saydon and Prof. C. Sant. The National Library loaned two items, namely Canolo's translation of the Gospel of St John into Italian and Maltese, published in 1822, and the posthumous publication in 1829 of Mikiel Anton Vassalli's translation into Maltese of the four Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles.

As part of the project *Stories of the Auberge of Italy* (IPAS+ funds, Malta Council for Science and Technology) led by Dr Christian Mifsud, Principal Curator at Heritage Malta, an exhibition entitled 'Stories of the Auberge of Italy: faces, facets, facades' was organised at MUŻA between 14th August and 24th September. The Auberge of Italy, which served as an embassy, a hospice and an archive and today houses MUŻA, is historically one of the most important buildings in Valletta, having been the centre for the Langue of the Italian Knights. The exhibition showcased the history and functioning of the Auberge and the Langue of Italy during the Hospitaller period. The National Library's significant contribution consisted of 15 volumes from the Archives of the Order of Malta.

Between 6th September and 11th November 2023, Heritage Malta set up an exhibition at the Main Guard in Valletta featuring the history of sexual identity and diversity in Malta to coincide with Malta EuroPride celebrated this year. The exhibition also commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of the decriminalisation of homosexual acts in Malta in 1973. The National Library participated with the loan of the manuscript Libr. MS 429 (*Bandi 1772-1779*) which contains interesting medical reports on one of the first intersex cases reported in Malta, concerning Rosario/a Mifsud.

In October, the Soċjetà Filarmonika Nazzjonali La Valette celebrated the 150th anniversary of its foundation. For the occasion, a display of items was mounted illustrating Grand Master Jean Parisot de Valette and the city of Valletta. The exhibition was held at the headquarters of the Society in Republic Street, Valletta, between 20th and 28th October. The National Library contributed with loans of two manuscript volumes, respectively relating to de Valette (AOM 89) and to the building of Valletta (AOM 91), from the Archives of the Order of Malta.

## STUDENTS AND VOLUNTEERS

Throughout the year, the library continued to provide training for both Maltese and foreign students. Five Sixth Form and University students conducted placements at the library while seven Erasmus students from France and Germany also lent a helping hand to staff. Generally the students were assigned tasks in the Digitisation Studio and in the Conservation Unit as well as in the Reading Room. They scanned books and newspapers thus speeding up the capturing phase of the digitisation process. They also performed editing tasks. In the Conservation Unit, they learned the basic techniques in both bookbinding and conservation and were given particular books which they repaired and bound themselves. Others assisted Reading Room staff by compiling lists of books and checking the titles in the catalogues.

In March, the National Library was fortunate to host the internship of a French student from the *École Nationale des Chartes – Université PSL (Paris)*, who was well-trained in archival science, palaeography and diplomatics. Louis Borel de Brétizel began his internship on 13th February and completed it with great success on 31st March. He was assigned the task of examining a collection of French medieval documents dating back to the 15th century which had been donated to the then Royal Malta Library by the Wellcome Foundation in 1956 and which had never been inventoried or even consulted. Louis succeeded in identifying the various typologies of documents present in the collection and compiled detailed inventories which he kindly left to the library before his departure. Among these documents he discovered the original minutes of Parisian notaries written between 1613 and 1730.

The collection has an interesting history. According to a detailed write-up which appeared in the *Times of Malta* on Friday 25th May 1956 on the occasion of the Wellcome donation, the *Collège Héraldique* de France ceased its activities during the First World War and its archives were

sold piecemeal in the 1930s. Around 1930-1933, Sir Henry Wellcome, an American pharmaceutical industrialist, bought part of the collection from a Parisian bookseller. Following Wellcome's death in 1936, the bookseller of the Wellcome Foundation realised that the documents constituted a genealogical study intended to support the proofs of nobility required to join the Order of Malta. The presence of the stamp "Archives de l'Ordre de Malthe" led him to erroneously believe that the documents had been stolen from the Archives of the Order in Malta by the French during the occupation of the island by Napoleon in 1798. The Wellcome Foundation thus donated the documents to the Royal Malta Library in 1956, believing that they were returning them to their rightful place. However, thanks to Louis Bretizel's painstaking work and his excellent skills in diplomatics, it was now discovered that, on the contrary, the notarial documents originated from the *Collège Héraldique de France*. Contacts were made by the Deputy Librarian with Fra' Emmanuel Rousseau, Grand Commander of the Order of Malta and then Director of the *Fonds des Archives Nationales* in Paris to initiate the procedure for the return of the notarial documents to their place of origin. Two boxes of documents accompanied by detailed inventories were prepared by Louis Bretizel and were transported back to France through the good offices of the Embassy of the Order of Malta in Valletta. The documents were deposited at the *Archives Nationales* in Paris.

In August-September 2023, three groups of young Maltese students from the Student Scheme – Julia Sciberras, Michele Medati and Amy Cachia Grech; Nathan Chircop and Faith Formosa; Kaylee Muscat, Ana Portelli and Michael Spiteri - lent a very useful helping hand to library staff by sorting and listing old Melitensia books which had been donated to the National Library in recent years. The data was inserted into an Excel sheet containing a number of fields. This exercise constituted the first step in identifying those items which the National Library already had and those which had never acceded to the library collection.

Georgia Grima and Philippa German, two students who had just completed Sixth Form, were assigned similar tasks. Georgia took on the more challenging job of compiling detailed data about the National Library manuscripts. She



then went on to compile lists of the important collection of Almanacs, *Pronostku Malti*, *Guida Generale* and *Ordo Recitandi Divinum Officium* conserved in the National Library's Melitensia collection. The data was also inserted into Excel sheets.

The work on the collection and organisation of the Festa programmes, a project initiated last year thanks to the assistance and enthusiasm of a student volunteer, Danica Abela, was continued this year. Over the past year, the collection which had occupied just two metres of shelving has grown to occupy 40 metres with over 5,000 publications from various local band clubs, parishes, warehouses and fireworks factories. The collection also includes programmes of feasts celebrated by Maltese communities resident in other countries such as Canada and Australia. The Festa programmes are greatly sought after by patrons as the articles they contain yield much information which reflects the Maltese Islands' religious, political and social history.

## VISITORS

During 2023, the National Library received a considerable number of visits by members of the Diplomatic Corps resident in Malta as well as other high-profile persons. Apart from these, several groups of University students came over with their respective tutors to learn about the library collections as well as the research tools and finding aids available at the library in view of researching their theses. Visits by schoolchildren, from both primary and secondary schools, became more frequent during this year. The visits were conducted by Reading Room staff who showed the children some interesting items from the library collections.

The visits occurred as follows:

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>3RD JANUARY</b>   | H.E. Kerem A. Kiratli, Ambassador of Turkey   |
| <b>31ST JANUARY</b>  | H.E. Caroline Whelan, Ambassador of Ireland   |
| <b>13TH FEBRUARY</b> | H.E. David Szesztai, Chargé d'Affaires of Hungary   |
| <b>15TH FEBRUARY</b> | MA Notarial students with Dr Joan Abela   |
| <b>3RD MARCH</b>     | Ms Kat Davies, Document Delivery Project Manager at Cambridge University Library, UK  |
| <b>3RD MARCH</b>     | Schoolchildren from Chiswick House School, San Ġwann  |
| <b>15TH MARCH</b>    | Schoolchildren from General High School of Kea, Greece  |
| <b>16TH MARCH</b>    | Students from School Cavall Berant from Terrassa, Barcelona, Spain  |
| <b>22ND MARCH</b>    | H.E. Fra' Emmanuel Rousseau, Grand Commander of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, and dott. Giorgio Amodeo, Director of Common Treasury        |
| <b>17TH APRIL</b>    | Practicum students with Dr Valeria Vanesio  |
| <b>24TH APRIL</b>    | Group with Renata Ciesielska-Kruczek, Library of Pedagogical University of Krakow, Poland   |
| <b>26TH APRIL</b>    | Group from Joint Office with Mr Patrick Vella   |
| <b>28TH APRIL</b>    | UoM students with Prof. Simon Mercieca  |
| <b>5TH MAY</b>       | BA (Hons) Philosophy students with Prof. Jean-Paul De Lucca   |
| <b>10TH MAY</b>      | Schoolchildren from Floriana Primary School   |
| <b>22ND MAY</b>      | Schoolchildren from Sacred Heart College, St Julian's   |
| <b>26TH MAY</b>      | BA (Hons) History students with Dr Emanuel Buttigieg  |
| <b>10TH JUNE</b>     | Ms Marcie Hopkins, Director of International, British Library, UK   |
| <b>17 TH JUNE</b>    | H.E. Riccardo Paternò di Montecupo, Grand Chancellor of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, and Dott. Emanuele Casieri, Deputy Chief of Protocol |

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 19TH JUNE      | Prof. Helena Perez Gallardo, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, and Dr María Luisa López-Vidriero, Director of the Biblioteca Real in Madrid |
| 21ST JUNE      | H.E. Erika Bernhard, Consul of Austria   |
| 3RD AUGUST     | Dott.ssa Valeria Maria Leonardi, SMOM Library and Archives, Rome   |
| 9TH AUGUST     | Group from Cottonera Community Service   |
| 5TH SEPTEMBER  | Group from the US SMOM Federal Association with Mr and Mrs Bill Williams   |
| 13TH SEPTEMBER | History students from the University of Vechta, Germany  |
| 27TH SEPTEMBER | US students with Ms Glorianne Mizzi  |
| 3RD OCTOBER    | Group from Kenn għal Saħħtek   |
| 21ST OCTOBER   | UoM MAL1010 students with Dr Olvin Vella   |
| 10TH NOVEMBER  | History option students with Ms Gabriella Radmilli   |
| 14TH NOVEMBER  | Viewing of Caravaggio-related documents by Colours of Malta group with Dr Christine Muscat   |
| 5TH DECEMBER   | UoM staff  |
| 20TH DECEMBER  | UoM students with Prof. Simon Mercieca   |

The library also received a number of visits organised by exclusive travel agencies such as Exclusively Malta, Maltese Details International Ltd, Swiss Luxury Group, German Luxury Group and Bureau Iniala. The guided tours were conducted by Reading Room staff.

Besides the organised visits, the library is open to drop-in visitors during opening hours. Visitors may view the display of library material in the exhibition area but are not accorded guided tours. During 2023, the library received a record number of 25,140 visitors – an average of 84 per day – from all over the world, with the majority hailing from France, Italy, Germany and Spain. A surge was registered during the month of December following the opening of the exhibition ‘In the Footsteps of the Hospitallers’.

## VISITORS 2023

---

|                         |                       |                        |                           |                           |                        |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>3720</b><br>FRANCE   | <b>2990</b><br>ITALY  | <b>2340</b><br>GERMANY | <b>2042</b><br>SPAIN      | <b>1958</b><br>MALTA      | <b>1395</b><br>UK      |
| <b>1266</b><br>POLAND   | <b>1074</b><br>US     | <b>735</b><br>BELGIUM  | <b>657</b><br>GREECE      | <b>653</b><br>NETHERLANDS | <b>595</b><br>PORTUGAL |
| <b>393</b><br>AUSTRALIA | <b>371</b><br>CANADA  | <b>352</b><br>ROMANIA  | <b>326</b><br>SWITZERLAND | <b>247</b><br>SERBIA      | <b>237</b><br>AUSTRIA  |
| <b>234</b><br>BRAZIL    | <b>234</b><br>DENMARK | <b>219</b><br>SLOVENIA | <b>192</b><br>HUNGARY     | <b>188</b><br>BULGARIA    | <b>181</b><br>IRELAND  |

**164**  
CROATIA

**163**  
JAPAN

**161**  
LITHUANIA

**136**  
CZECH REPUBLIC

**135**  
SWEDEN

**132**  
ISRAEL

**122**  
TURKEY

**119**  
CHINA

**110**  
UKRAINE

**97**  
COLOMBIA

**96**  
SLOVAKIA

**90**  
ARGENTINA

**83**  
NORWAY

**81**  
FINLAND

**79**  
SOUTH KOREA

**74**  
RUSSIA

**67**  
MEXICO

**57**  
LUXEMBOURG

**56**  
CYPRUS

**55**  
LATVIA

**49**  
ESTONIA

**35**  
INDIA

**35**  
NORTH  
MACEDONIA

**35**  
SOUTH AFRICA

**26**  
NEW ZEALAND

**25**  
SINGAPORE

**25**  
TUNISIA

**22**  
CHILE

**20**  
MALAYSIA

**17**  
ALBANIA

**14**  
BELARUS

**14**  
BOSNIA

**14**  
GEORGIA

**14**  
SAUDI ARABIA

**12**  
URUGUAY

**9**  
EGYPT

**9**  
KOSOVO

**8**  
MOROCCO

**5**  
ICELAND

**5**  
INDONESIA

**5**  
MOLDOVA

**5**  
PHILIPPINES

**5**  
THAILAND

**5**  
VENEZUELA

**4** AZERBAIJAN, KAZAKHISTAN,  
MONTENEGRO,  
PAKISTAN, PANAMA

**3** EI SALVADOR, FAROE  
ISLANDS, KYRGYSTAN,  
VIETNAM

**2** AFGHANISTAN, ALGERIA,  
COSTA RICA, LEBANON,  
KUWAIT, PERU, QATAR

**1** ARMENIA, GUATEMALA,  
LIECHTENSTEIN, NEPAL,  
SYRIA

**25,140**  
TOTAL

**DOREEN  
BORG ZAMMIT**  
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 the community. The Central Public Library continues to outreach its service through the regional and branch libraries around Malta and Gozo.

The main objectives 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 and branch 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.

With the aim of ameliorating the standards in regional and branch libraries one of the budgetary measures focused on a thorough study of the present situation in the area libraries with the objective of working together with the respective Local Councils in upgrading the libraries within their respective community to meet standards dictated by the local scenario. This extensive study which entailed the surveying of all the pertinent library aspects in every

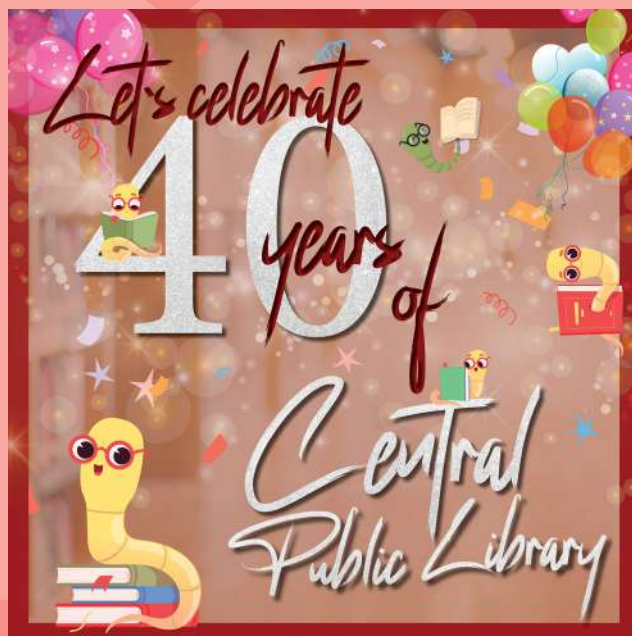
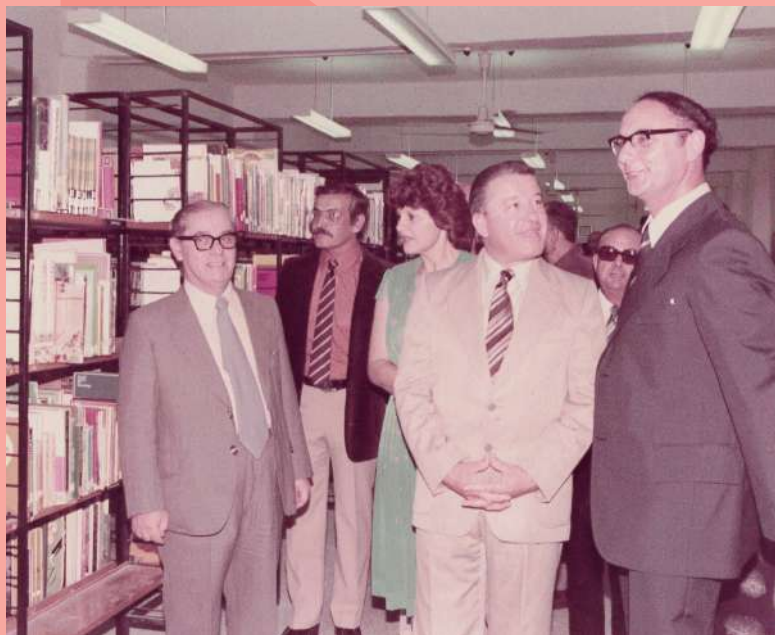
library was carried out by means of a checklist that provided the necessary information for eventual evaluation highlighting any tangible improvements in reaching the required standards with the intention of attracting more library users. The first batch of libraries under study were those pertaining to the Northern and Southern Regions of Malta. Subsequently, a report was compiled based on evaluation of the findings suggesting workable solutions for improvement.

During the forthcoming year a second batch of libraries forming part of the Western and Eastern Regions will be visited and studied accordingly.

The year 2023 marked the fortieth anniversary since the Central Public Library moved to its current location in June 1983. Formerly accommodated at the Police Headquarters, the CPL took over premises that had once served as married quarters for the British during the colonial years. This historical event prompted a chain of activities to commemorate the occasion. The biggest highlight was the first view by the public of the initial stage of renovations of the Adult Library which has been transformed to a state-of-the-art hall equipped with all amenities in conformity to health and safety standards.

The theme chosen for this year's Libraries Day, celebrated together with World Book and Copyright Day on 23rd April, was that of "Libraries with you everywhere! – Il-Librerji – Mieghek u Kullimkien". For this special occasion Malta Libraries hosted a good number of schoolchildren and student visits to the Central Public Library albeit with certain restrictions due to ongoing works in progress.

All in all, this was a very busy year for Malta Libraries due to infrastructural projects both at the Central Public Library and the area libraries, not forgetting to mention the many extracurricular activities which involved huge preparation and team effort. These activities also serve as a valuable marketing exercise leading to the enrolment of new members encouraged to make use of library services. Overall, the aims and objectives for 2023 were reached as expected. Leading up to 2024, other projects are already in the pipeline for which milestones have already been identified and established.





## READER SERVICES

In 2023, investment into collection development in Public Libraries continued. Regarding physical books, the need to make our libraries more inclusive saw an increased focus on foreign-language books, large print books, graphic novels and dyslexia-friendly titles. Investment in eBooks in Maltese, English and other languages was also ongoing.

Collaborations with different authors, organisations, public and private entities both local and foreign, were kept constant throughout the year enabling the receipt of a good number of recently published publications that were donated to Malta Libraries for onward distribution to regional and branch libraries.

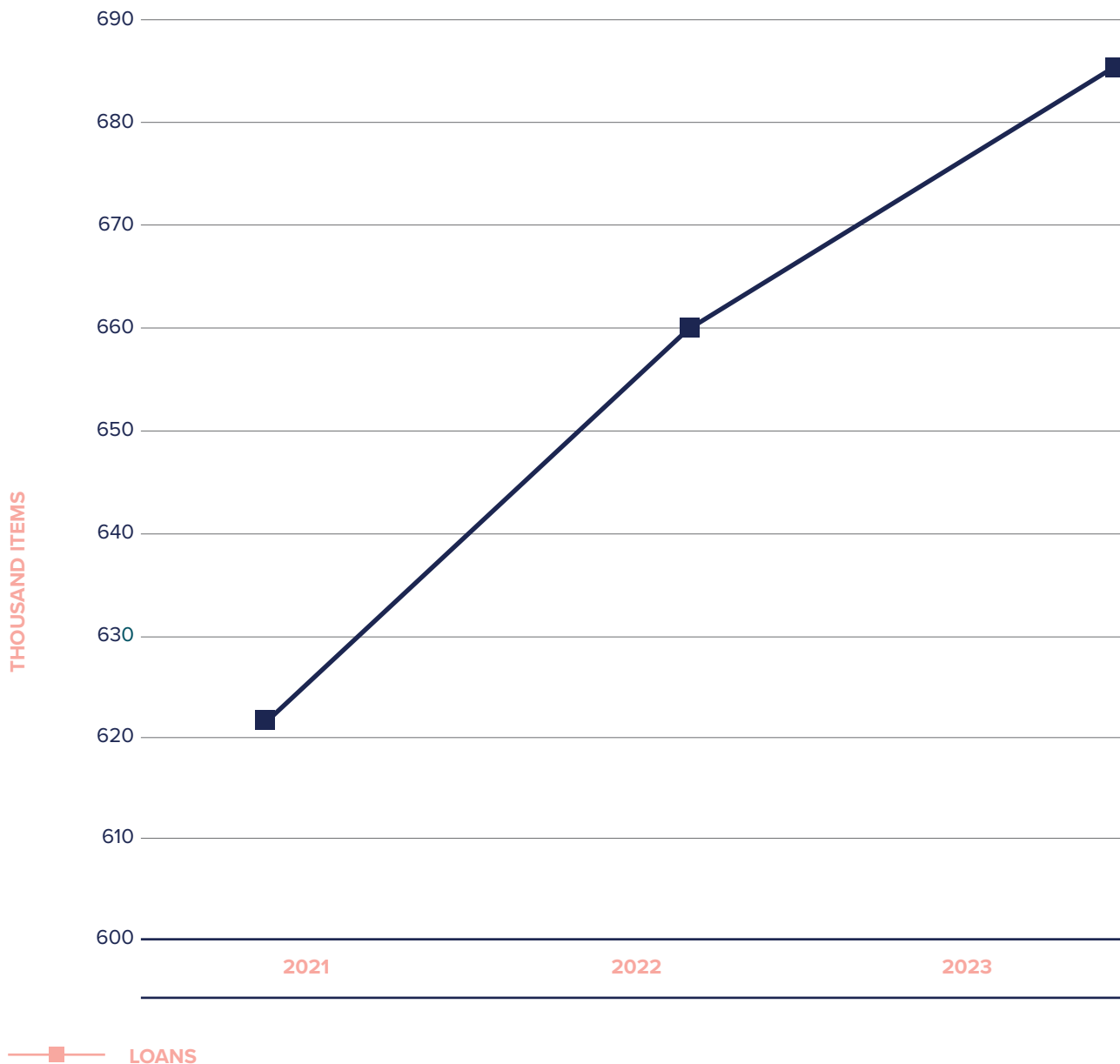
During 2023, a total number of 13,769 people visited the Central Public Library. The busiest month was August which saw 1,499 visitors and the slowest was January with 929. This registers an overall record over the previous years as shown in the table below:

| YEAR | NUMBER OF VISITS |
|------|------------------|
| 2023 | 13,769           |
| 2022 | 11,251           |
| 2021 | 9,828            |
| 2020 | 6,315            |

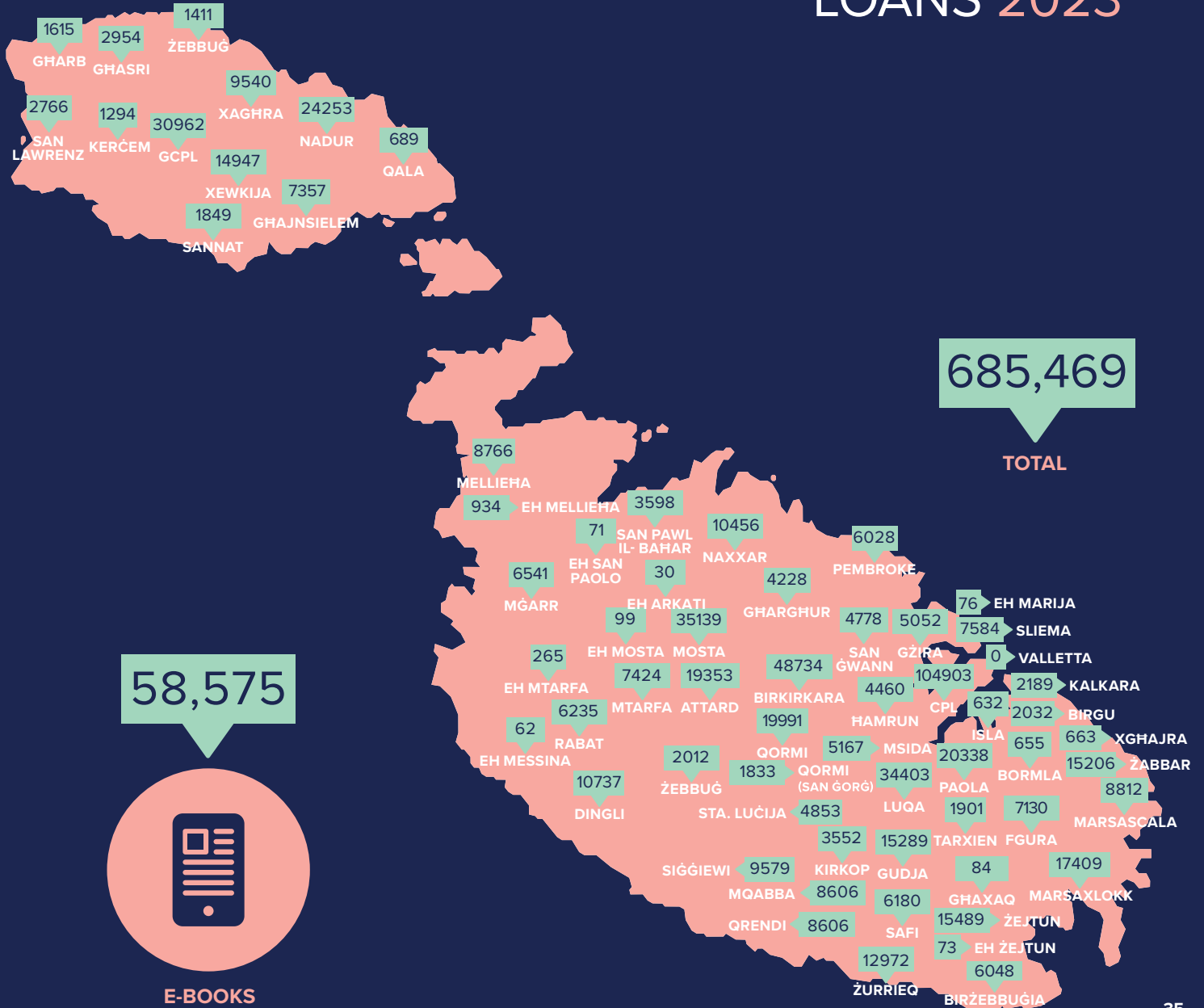
Another positive performance was seen within book loan statistics where the number of book loans for 2023 totalled 685,469. When compared with the previous year's (2022) checkout counts of 659,616 an increase of 25,853 book loans was registered. Out of the 685,469 loans for 2023, 626,894 consisted of physical book loans issued from the total network of libraries comprising all public libraries spread across Malta and Gozo. Percentage-wise the Children's Sections registered the bigger portion of loans with 69% while the Adult Sections accounted for 31%. The top five libraries with the greatest number of physical book loans were:

| LIBRARY                         | BOOK LOANS |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Central Public Library Floriana | 101,201    |
| Birkirkara Regional             | 48,734     |
| Mosta Regional                  | 35,139     |
| Luqa Regional                   | 34,403     |
| Gozo Central Public Library     | 30,962     |

CHART 1: TOTAL BOOK LOANS 2021 - 2023



# LIBRARY BOOK LOANS 2023

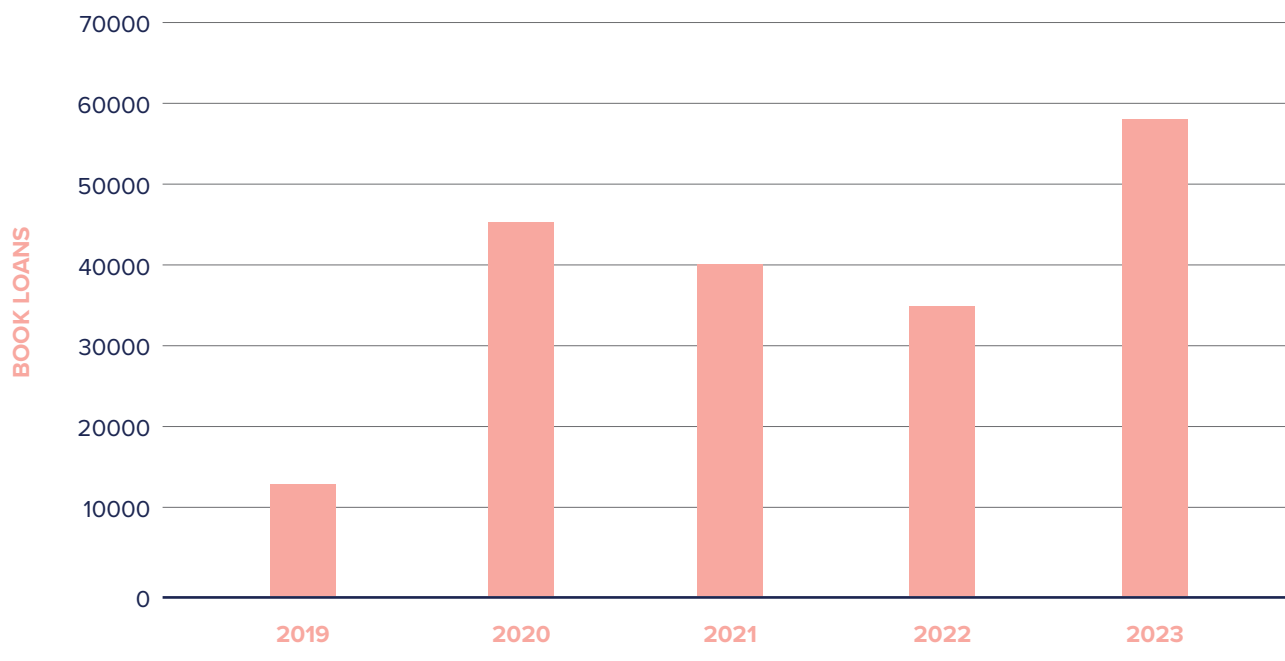


58,575

E-BOOKS

Apart from physical books, patrons are encouraged to make use of our online services through a free reading app available for download from app stores. Entitled **Libby, by OverDrive**, once downloaded, the app is logged into by means of the library membership card. For alternative access one may log into <https://maltalibraries.overdrive.com>. All library members may explore, choose and borrow titles from our selection of eBooks, audiobooks and magazines. Over the last five years eBook loans have registered phenomenal growth, from 8,200 in 2018 to 58,575 checkouts in 2023. In total, there are 38,379 titles on Libby, comprising 32,408 eBooks, 1,014 audiobooks, and 4,957 magazine titles. Our other digital reading and publishing platform Octavo which features eBooks in Maltese has also remained popular among our users. The total number of eBooks available on Octavo in 2023 totals 98, with 410 users making use of its service.

CHART2: EBOOKS LOANS 2018-2022



The number of new members registered with the Public Libraries Network grew to 8,188 from 5,947 in 2022. This shows an increase of 38% amounting to 2,241 new members. A total of 51% of new members were under the age of 18, of which 47% fell under the 0-12 age group.

| TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP  | 2023<br>NUMBER OF MEMBERS |
|---|---------------------------|
| <b>ADULTS - 18 AND OVER</b>   |                           |
| Adults <sup>1</sup>   | 3,730                     |
| Adults residing in Malta without Maltese citizenship <sup>1&amp;3</sup> | 51                        |
| Adult foreign visitors <sup>1&amp;3</sup>                               | 12                        |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>3,793</b>              |
| <b>JUNIORS - UNDER 18</b>   |                           |
| 0-12 years  | 3,915                     |
| 13-17 years   | 190                       |
| 17 years and under with additional adult lending rights <sup>2</sup>    | 10                        |
| 0-12 years residing in Malta without Maltese citizenship <sup>3</sup>   | 80                        |
| 13-17 years residing in Malta without Maltese citizenship <sup>3</sup>  | 12                        |
| Junior Foreign visitors <sup>3</sup>                                    | 8                         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>4,215</b>              |
| <b>OTHERS</b>   |                           |
| Guests <sup>4</sup>   | 132                       |
| Staff members   | 5                         |
| Teachers  | 43                        |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>180</b>                |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>8,188</b>              |

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

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

During 2023 Malta Libraries embarked on an intensive study regarding the public libraries which form part of the two regions namely, Northern and Southern. The Northern region covered the public libraries in the following localities: Attard, Mellieħa, Mosta, Mġarr, Mtarfa, Naxxar, San Ġwann and St Paul's Bay.

The Southern Region includes the following public libraries in the following localities: Birżebbuġa, Ġhaxaq, Gudja, Hamrun, Luqa, Marsaskala, Marsaxlokk, Qormi, Santa Luċija and Żejtun. It is to be noted that at the time of the report compilation the Ġhaxaq Branch Library could not be visited since the school where the library is housed was undergoing extensive refurbishment and hence the library was not operational.

The study focused on the present situation of the public libraries mentioned above and analysed important elements. Among others: the accessibility and the size of the library, facilities such as public toilets, the directions and signs leading to the library, the library collection itself and human resources. After the collection of data by means of a prepared checklist the information will be evaluated and included in a detailed report containing statistics, graphs and photographic material. This report will ensure that public libraries are maintained to a high level and comply with modern standards that reflect today's needs. This will potentially encourage more people to utilise the public libraries, as well as provide present clients with a pleasant environment. It shall be noted that the standards drawn will reflect and consider the entire population of that location. After the report is concluded, a tangible recommendation will be issued for each library in this study and an assessment of how these public libraries will achieve these standards. Meetings will be held with the Councils concerned in order to give direction and agree what needs to be done to ensure that the quality of service offered to the public reflects today's reality.

At present there are ongoing discussions between Malta Libraries and Local Councils on an individual level to revise and finalise the Co-operation Agreements as regards Public Libraries. The new agreement will replace the previous one which is now obsolete and does not meet today's needs. At the end of 2023 two new Co-operation Agreements were finalised and signed between the Birżebbuġa and Żurrieq Local Councils. The agreement with the Birżebbuġa Local Council was the first ever with Malta Libraries. That of Żurrieq Local Council was renewed with new amendments that reflect current aspirations and requirements.



Moreover, periodical meetings were held during the year with Local Councils to solve any difficulties arising. This procedure bore fruit. In 2023 several Local Councils invested in the renovation of their respective libraries to implement enhancements that cater for changing needs for library users.

With the collaboration of the Local Government Directorate various refurbishments were carried out in certain branch libraries as outlined here below: -

#### **ATTARD BRANCH LIBRARY**

The library is still operating from the old library adjacent to the school. The building of a new modern library in the garden of the old railway track is complete and the shelves, seating equipment and desk are now in place. Currently, works are being undertaken on the refurbishment of the floor garden before moving to the new premises according to schedule.

### **FGURA BRANCH LIBRARY**

The Local Council, together with the help of the region/entities/government departments, have changed the floor tiles and redecorated the library. During the ongoing works the shelving of the library and the books were temporarily transferred to the basement of the Local Council.

### **GUDJA BRANCH LIBRARY**

With the help of the region/entities/government departments, the Local Council painted the library and the main door.

### **GŻIRA BRANCH LIBRARY**

The Local Council, together with the help of the region/entities/government departments, is carrying out extensive refurbishment of the library but works are still in progress. Works started at the beginning of December and are estimated to be finished by mid-January 2024.

### **GHAXAQ BRANCH LIBRARY**

Even though the new school opened its doors in September 2023, works on the library are still ongoing. Unfortunately, due to an accident in December at the school hall, the project will now be delayed further. Therefore, Ghaxaq Branch Library is still closed to the public for now, with borrowed material being returned and collected by Paola Regional Library personnel.

### **ISLA BRANCH LIBRARY**

The Local Council wrote to the lands/housing authorities to repair the damage coming from the apartments above the library which in turn cause damage to library property. Action is being taken to perform remedial works and re-paint the library walls. While the necessary repairs are being carried out the library is operating from the room in front of the library entrance.

### **THE QORMI SAN ĠORĠ BRANCH LIBRARY**

At present, the library is still closed to the public as the school is undergoing renovation works and until such works are completed the library will remain closed.

### **THE RABAT REGIONAL LIBRARY**

The Rabat Local Council undertook the task of re-painting all the library's wooden windows and renovating the lavatory. Subsequently, a cleaning company was appointed to clean the library material and shelving to make it possible again for the library to re-open its doors to the public.

### **ENHANCEMENT OF THE SAN ĠWANN BRANCH LIBRARY**

The San Ġwann Local Council, together with the help of the region/entities/government departments, re-painted the library and repaired its main door. It is expected that works shall also include the holistic transformation of the front patio to be used as a storytelling area and reading hub. The expenditure for this project was partly financed by the Northern Region for the sum of €5,000.

### **XGHAJRA BRANCH LIBRARY**

This library is still not operational after undergoing renovation works which consisted mainly in covering the walls with anti-humidity sheeting before the re-painting of walls to protect against humidity. The workmen also carried out improvement works in the backyard. The next step to be taken is to see to the general cleaning of the library material and shelving before the re-opening of the library.

### **ŻEBBUĠ (MALTA) BRANCH LIBRARY**

The whole building was demolished to build new premises which will include the ŻebbuĠ (Malta) Branch Library on the first floor. At street level there will be a public convenience, with stairs and lift leading to the second floor that will house a hall to be used by the ŻebbuĠ Local Council. At present excavation works are in progress but to date works on the actual building has not yet started. During a meeting held between the Local Council and the architect in charge of the project, Malta Libraries was informed that the building should be ready within four months.

Most of the public libraries in Malta have undergone cosmetic changes rather than a total renovation of their premises.





## PILOT PROJECTS

In the middle of August 2023, a pilot project with the aim of attracting other regional and branch libraries was initiated with the aim of transforming regional and branch libraries into a hub where all research material pertaining to their community Melitensia could be collected and stored in the library to form an integral part of the library collection. The material collected would consist of research books written by local authors and any other ephemeral publications including feast programmes and other published material by the Local Council and Band Club/s of the locality.

To support this project the respective schools within the community were being invited to organise any library material or students' artistic projects relating to the locality, which would eventually be presented to the library on the day of the activity launch and then exhibited. These contributions would then be held in the library as part of the Melitensia collection about their village or town.

The first two libraries to participate in this project are those of Safi and Żurrieq. The respective librarians received instructions about the selection of publications and other ephemera that could be exhibited to form part of the Żurrieq and Safi Melitensia collections. Through liaison with the respective Local Councils, meetings were also held with the Mayors and Executive Secretaries in question regarding methods of material collection and event organisation with the help of Heads of Schools involving their students in the compilation of information through their writings or artistic contributions. By adopting this strategy, the main key players, namely, the Local Council, the schools and Malta Libraries, will be working together to implement this project.

It is expected that both exhibitions and collection of Melitensia material will be finalised and launched during the first half of the year 2024.

## COLLECTION MAINTENANCE AND WEEDING

During 2023, various weeding exercises were carried out in public libraries to maintain the present collection development, as well as in church schools that were added to Malta Libraries' V-smart Library System. Intensive weeding was necessary since most of the library material was outdated especially in the case of continuous development within subjects such as: languages, medical science, computing and sciences. This collection update was an essential exercise in order to reflect current requirements for both students and teachers.

This was executed thanks to our dedicated staff who volunteered to weed the collection, pack library material and transport it to the Central Public Library to be catalogued. Other church schools and institutions who are already using our computerised system also sent new books to be catalogued during the year to enrich their collection.

## SPONSORSHIPS

During 2023, the Public Libraries continued to acquire more sponsorships from various organisations that from part of the public and the private sector. Among these bodies, BNF Bank donated books to the Siġġiewi Branch Library as part of its commitment towards inclusivity. These items consisted of non-traditional library material such as large print books, dyslexia-friendly titles, books on wellbeing and graphic novels to mention a few. During Library Week, the book presentation took place at the Siġġiewi Branch Library between the Siġġiewi Branch manager Maria Grech and the National Librarian/CEO Ms Cheryl Falzon.

Another sponsorship consisted of a handsome donation of foreign books by embassies and individual members to be available for foreigners and those who wish to start learning a new language. During 2023 a collection of Ukrainian books was added to our Junior and Adult collections. Other libraries also benefited from these donated books which were distributed in localities housing immigrant communities. Other foreign-language books that were added to our collections included Czech, Bulgarian and Georgian, among others.



## OPENING OF LIBRARIES AT ELDERLY HOMES

During the last quarter of 2023, another library was inaugurated at Casa San Paolo Elderly Home in Buġibba which forms part of the Care Malta elderly homes complement. This was possible after a continuous dialogue between Malta Libraries and Care Malta. The aim was for the elderly to find it easier to borrow books from the comfort of their residence rather than venture outside. This was made possible after our team carried out the necessary weeding of library material which was outdated or in fair condition. To the existing library material that was in good condition, new book purchases were catalogued and added to the collection so that the elderly residents and staff could make use of this library.

For the library opening the National Librarian/ CEO of Malta Libraries and other staff members were present together with persons from Care Malta.



## SPECIAL EVENTS

On 27th March 2023 Malta Libraries was chosen to celebrate the Day of European Authors, held for the first time this year. This was a European Commission initiative led by Commissioner Mariya Gabriel, aimed towards reconnecting younger generations with books and helping them discover the diversity of European literature. To mark this event Malta Libraries invested in the launching of a new library to host the 27 winners of the European Union Prize for Literature (EUPL) from every EU member state. The ceremony was held at the Central Public Library in Floriana. Among those attending this event were the National Librarian/CEO Ms Cheryl Falzon.

The EU Author Library was launched at a ceremony held at the Central Public Library in Floriana in the presence of the National Librarian Cheryl Falzon, Senior Assistant Librarian Margaret Callus, and David Schembri, the Language Officer at the European Commission Representation in Valletta.

The European Commission Representation in Malta and Malta Libraries launched a bookmark with the text: “Skopri l-Ewropa ktieb ktieb: ibda l-vjaġġ mil-librerija” (Discover Europe book by book: start your journey at the library).



## DONATIONS

In December, Malta Libraries donated books to St Joseph Home to be added to their collection for the use of the children living there. The National Librarian/CEO and staff members attended this presentation on behalf of Malta Libraries.

Another initiative, this time at St Angela Home, saw our staff cataloguing their library books, so that students would be able to borrow books electronically instead of manually. A number of books were also donated to their collection to reflect today's trends. This was a collaboration which was started under the previous Deputy Librarian Ms Margaret Bugeja.



## TRAINING AND COMPUTERISATION

Several training sessions were offered to public library employees on Malta Libraries' V-smart Library Computerised System to keep abreast with updates, in order to offer the best service to clients accessing our resources. The same training was also given to church school librarians and another full training computer course was delivered to a number of teacher librarians who are in charge of libraries in their respective schools.

The staff of Malta Libraries were offered in-house training by KOPIN on how to serve and support clients from a different background and culture. This created the opportunity for employees from various sectors and localities to share and learn from related experiences encountered on a day-to-day basis.



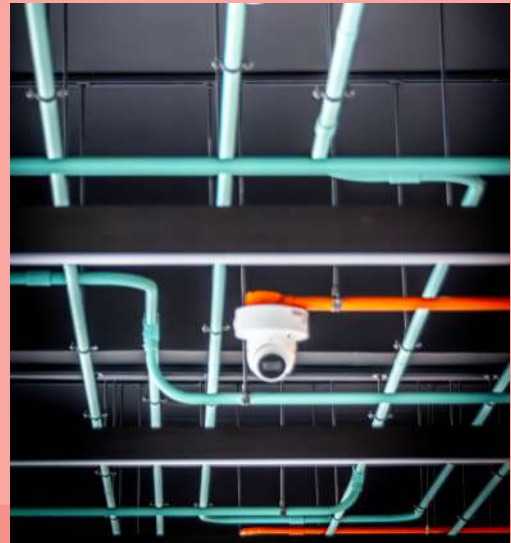
In November and December, a course on Basic Librarianship Skills was offered to the employees of Malta Libraries as well as the public. This was a joint venture between Malta Libraries and MaLIA and the course was hosted at the new Adult Library in the Central Public Library. Different speakers and lecturers were invited to give talks and presentations on the core subjects of librarianship.

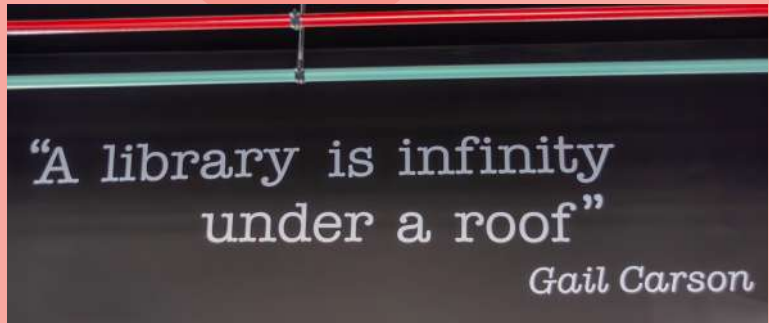
## CPL RENOVATION

During the current year, infrastructural works at the Adult Library were completed and in June the renovated halls were made accessible to the public to offer a glimpse and preview of the works carried out. This took place during the event held to mark the 40th anniversary of the transfer of the Central Public Library to the current premises. In the meantime, holistic renovation works on the same building were initiated.

Participating in the project are the MCAST students who were invited to take part in the development, refurbishing and renovation of the Adult Library Hall by creating library designs within the remit of their studies. This was agreed by a memorandum of understanding between MCAST and Malta Libraries.







## REFERENCE SERVICES

The Reference, Melitensia and Audiovisual 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.

Moreover, the library also sends scans of library material to borrowers' mailboxes upon request. In the year under review, patrons were accepted by appointment.

During the year the library welcomed 304 patrons who visited the library in person for research purposes, to study or to consult newspapers and periodicals, and another 96 patrons who visited the Audiovisual Section only, so in total 400 people visited this section. Meanwhile other clients preferred to contact the Unit for research assistance either by email or telephone.

Various activities were held at the Reference Section during the year, including book donation presentations, author interviews, filming sessions, school visits and meetings concerning publishers. Moreover, during summer, a number of students worked in this section as part of their summer work phase.

New books were added to the collection and daily newspapers were reviewed and indexed daily with any material selected, copied, classified, and filed.

These were then made available to the public for research purposes. Through this initiative, aspects of the collection were highlighted and organised for easy information retrieval.

## 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 service provided by Malta Libraries consists of audiobooks recorded on pen drives in MP3 format which can then be played on various devices.

The patrons registered in 2023 with the Talking Books Section were 139. These included 125 persons with visual impairments and 14 persons with other needs. It is to be noted that 16 persons from the above list have more than one condition.

Talking book loans in the year 2023 amounted to 3,702, an increase of 11% over the previous year. The increase in loans is attributable to the constant dedication and steady teamwork among the staff members attached to the Section.

Updated information sessions about the Talking Books Service were delivered to the front desk personnel of the Public Library Network in Malta and Gozo, by means of PowerPoint presentations concerning people who cannot access physical books. These sessions took place at the Central Public Library on 25th and 31st May, at Birkirkara, Luqa, Mosta, Paola, Qormi and Rabat Regional Libraries on 5th June, and at the Gozo Public Library on 14th July.

Various meetings regarding the Talking Books Section were held with the employee assigned to the section. During the year recording sessions continued, involving nine volunteer readers who contributed by reading books at the recording studio to be copied on pen drives as audio recordings. This facilitated the reading of 72 new additional audiobooks which were automatically included to the TBS catalogue. These consisted of different genres in the adult fiction, non-fiction, and junior categories.

Along with these additions other recording material in English was downloaded through the ABC Consortium and this enhanced the selection for our readers. Furthermore, patrons of the Talking Books Section can have access to and directly download audiobooks from the ABC Consortium online platform.

The Talking Books Service was marketed mainly through information sessions especially during the Malta Book Festival, through radio promotion as well as by means of distribution leaflets and PowerPoint presentations.

Undoubtedly, the Talking Books Service is much appreciated by its patrons as can be seen from the various responses received from time to time showing their eagerness to receive more audiobooks in time especially when the postal service is very busy at certain times of year.

Current plans to build on a successful year involve more awareness and information sessions through presentations delivered to branch librarians, Local Councils, parishes as well as other organisations. Naturally, to achieve this objective, the section requires more dedicated staff and additional working hours besides the normal hours of work so that more titles could be recorded and downloaded on pen drives to ensure a wider and more attractive selection for our present and future clients.

## 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. Each year public libraries are allocated a book budget reflecting the previous year's loan performance and this serves as an incentive to increase user borrowing. New publications are promoted regularly to all librarians within the network and book orders are coordinated and purchased through the Section. It also works in liaison with librarians within the entity 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 while striving to keep fulfilling patrons' requests within the context of always-evolving informational, educational, and recreational needs.

It is also essential to monitor and keep up to date with constant developments in the local and international publishing scene, and the Section's remit is also to analyse 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 2023 the Public Libraries acquired a total number of 14,955 books and eBooks, spending €95,403.91 in all. This figure comprises 9,994 books costing €66,074.34 and 5,011 eBooks and audiobooks from digital suppliers OverDrive and Octavo. The sums of €17,529.57 and €11,800 were spent on OverDrive and Octavo respectively, with both figures including the cost of the digital licences required.

Malta Libraries' collections are also greatly enriched by donations. This year, a total of 24,876 books were donated to Malta Libraries, with a generous 12,119 originating from the public. Other donations amounting to 12,757 books were received from a diverse mix of organisations, companies, Local Councils and individual authors. Of these, the largest donation was courtesy of the National Literacy Agency with 4,181 books, followed by the National Book Council who donated 2,600 books, Local Councils with 1,852 books and the President Coleiro Preca Foundation (the Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society) donating 1,453 books. Among the various other donors who are too many to mention, honorary mentions go to the generous donations

received from the Honorary Consulate of Ukraine in Malta, BNF Bank, Wirt iż-Żejtun and Eco Gozo. 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 2023, the cataloguing team catalogued 7,875 items and added 57,208 items to different libraries and elderly homes. The general public donated 12,119 items and 12,757 items were donated by various publishers, authors, ministries, departments, agencies and from the Honorary Consulate of Ukraine in Malta. Besides, over 15,775 items were catalogued for the four church schools that migrated onto Malta Libraries' V-smart system.

## INTERSHIPS AND VOLUNTARY WORK

During 2023, the Central Public Library accommodated a total number of ten students. Two of these students were Maltese MCAST students, one of whom was studying for a diploma and was required to conduct 20 hours voluntary work, whilst the other student was undertaking a basic office skills course and was required to conduct 56 hours of unpaid work with our entity. Both students started work mid-March and ended their placement at the beginning of April.

As part of the students' summer work opportunities scheme 2023, eight full-time students who had finished compulsory secondary education, were in their final year of studies or studying at post-secondary and tertiary level, were also given the opportunity to work at the Central Public Library. The first batch of students initiated their paid employment on 10th July and ended the experience on 4th August. Altogether they worked for a total amount of 80 hours respectively. The second batch of students started off their work experience on 16th August and ended their placement on 28th August. They worked a total amount of 40 hours respectively and then resumed their work experience at the National Library. Finally, the last batch of students started their summer work at the National Library and then resumed their placement at the Central Public Library on 29th August until 12th September and worked for a total number of 40 hours respectively.

During their work or voluntary experience, all the students and volunteers were given a general tour and orientation of the entity, training on general library tasks and familiarisation with the main library services.

They mainly carried out tasks at the Junior and Adult counters, the Reference Library, and the Talking Books Section. Other tasks included book processing, shelving, and basic circulation, as well as assisting the Administration and Outreach team with preparation for school visits and other library events.

**ELIZABETH  
EBEJER**  
DIRECTOR,  
GOZO  
LIBRARIES



# GOZO LIBRARIES

The year 2023 was certainly an eventful year for Gozo libraries. Despite various challenges, it proved to be a remarkable year for learning, improvement and innovation, which offered countless opportunities for growth and development and saw the exploration of new ideas and ventures.

On 26th January 2023, the National Library and the Gozo Central Public Library welcomed Mr Tony Sultana, Principal Permanent Secretary, Ms Joyce Dimech, Permanent Secretary MHAL, and Ms Cheryl Falzon, National Librarian and CEO of Malta Libraries.

Mr Sultana visited the Ninu Cremona exhibit which was donated to the National Library of Gozo in the 1970s. At the Gozo Central Public Library, the significant increase in the number of patrons visiting the Public Library was highlighted. This was in large part due to the very recent renovation of the library.



## NATIONAL LIBRARY OF GOZO

The National Library of Gozo opened in the present premises at Vajringa Street on March 9, 1896. The spacious reading hall, situated on the first floor of the 19th century building, houses a collection of priceless books and materials.

During 2023, several maintenance projects were carried out to safeguard the building as well as the invaluable collection.

The exhibition 'SUNETTI: Minn Fomm u Qalb il-Poplu' was launched on 3rd February at the Ministry of Gozo and was open to the public for one month.

The Reading Hall was used to launch different initiatives, one of which was the announcement on 24th February of the first-ever Gozo Literature Festival – Linja Hamra – to be held on 1st and 2nd April and organised jointly by the Gozo Regional Council and Inizjamed. In October, the Gozo Regional Development Authority launched the book *1948 Tragedy in the Gozo Channel: the Untold Account*, written by Mgr Dr Joseph Bezzina, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the tragic event.

The Promoting Collective Memory and Cultural Identity initiative proposal was submitted for funding through the Sustainable Urban Development Fund. This initiative seeks to safeguard and uphold the history and character of urban areas and village cores in Gozo. It aims to promote Gozo's urban historical heritage through literature, art exhibitions, collaborative storytelling, and community involvement. This proposal is in line with the Gozo Regional Development Strategy goals of protecting the identity of Gozitan villages and promoting and protecting Gozo's heritage and culture.







## BRANCH LIBRARIES - GOZO

During the 2023, three branch libraries were renovated and reopened to the public. The Local Councils of San Lawrenz, Għarb, and Żebbuġ were responsible for their design and refurbishment. Qala, Għajnsielem and Nadur Libraries are also currently undergoing refurbishment and works are projected to finish in 2024.

In July, all Gozitan Branch Librarians were invited to a workshop held at the Gozo Central Public Library. Ms Cheryl Falzon, National Librarian and CEO of Malta Libraries, and Deputy Librarian Ms Doreen Borg Zammit attended the workshop. Ms Elizabeth Ebejer, COO of Gozo Libraries, discussed issues that one might encounter while working in a library and the way forward for branch libraries in Gozo through good practices. She thanked each librarian for their sterling work. Ms Falzon highlighted issues that might arise while serving the public and Ms Borg Zammit answered the librarians' various queries.

Another important milestone for branch libraries in Gozo was the introduction of cultural activities to be held there. Around Christmas, the Xewkija Branch Library presented an adaptation of The Nutcracker and Żebbuġ Branch Library also hosted various activities during Halloween and Christmas. Other libraries are opening their doors to other institutions to hold reading sessions within their premises.

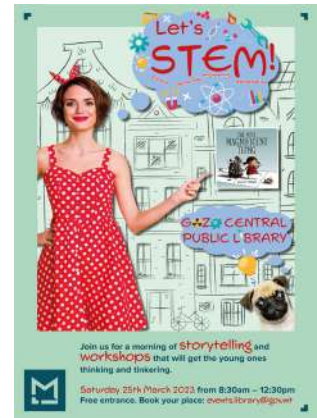




# GOZO CENTRAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

Throughout 2023, the Gozo Central Public Library embarked on the idea of open doors and created a number of activities with the sole aim of the Library serving as a hub of creativity as well as the go-to destination for the latest book titles. During the past year, our role as librarians moved from simply renewing and shelving books to guiding readers and researchers to the library materials they need. Consequently, the goal is to make a difference within the community while listening to patrons and always keeping up-to-date with what the community needs, and thus helping our libraries evolve.

In 2023, the Gozo Central Public Library organised eight unique events for children and their parents/guardians. We kicked off in March with LET'S STEM. June saw two events: BEŻLIN BĦAN-NAĦAL, which was about the importance of bees, and on the last day of June, a lovely adventure, NIGHT AT THE LIBRARY - JUST FOR TOYS, SLEEPOVER STUFFED ANIMALS, which was an amazing experience for everyone. The library was really buzzing with excitement. This event had a follow up in that for eight weeks, on our Facebook page, one could follow what really happened during the sleepover. In September, there was the event SAĦĦA SAJF, MERĦBA BIK, ĦARIFA, and in October a special event was planned to bring opera to children at the library, with the title OF LIBRETTOS AND FALSETTOS: Celebrating Opera Month at Gozo Central Public Library. It was an amazing experience to listen to Soprano Miriam Cauchi and her talented students. This event was part of the booklet issued by Ministry for Gozo and Events in Gozo, 'Opera is Gozo.' In November another two events took place, EJJA NILAGĦBU LOGĦBA FUTBOL, where we celebrated the Gozitan football legends Mr Joseph Psaila and Mr Eddie Vella. A group of children that form part of the nursery of the Don Bosco Football Nursery - Oratory Youths FC attended the event. CHRISTMAS AT THE LIBRARY was the second activity in November and it was also participating in the European Week for Waste Reduction. The last event,



CHRISTMAS CAROLS, was a special one as Spiro Sillato performed various Christmas carols in both Maltese and English. The Christmas events were included in the booklet 'Milied f'Ghawdex, Christmas in Gozo 2023', issued by the Ministry for Gozo. Animators from the National Literacy Agency took part. All the events were free of charge and the Outreach Team did a remarkable job in creating all the promotional posters.



In order to reinforce the concept of the three R's – Reuse, Reduce, Recycle, in November 2023, the GCPL took part in the European Week for Waste Reduction, posting daily on social media regarding tips ranging from reusing pages from weeded books to creating crafts. Christmas at the Library was also part of the EWWR initiative and the EWWR logo was inserted in the poster.



The Gozo Regional Council launched a Call for Projects as part of the bid for Gozo, European Region of Gastronomy 2026 and the Gozo Central Public Library submitted a project proposal entitled THE SEED LIBRARY. The concept behind this is that patrons can 'borrow' seeds. Our main aim will be to create a space where kids and adults may find the right information about seeds and share knowledge with other patrons.



On the occasion of the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Central Public Library's starting to operate from its current premises in Floriana, original photographs of the 1983 inauguration of the CPL were posted on the Gozo Central Public Library's Facebook page.



Other milestones worth mentioning in 2023, were educators from various schools choosing GCPL as a space to deliver special lessons. During these activities the librarians, upon request, distributed application forms for anyone wishing to register for the Malta Libraries membership card.

The Library also joined forces with EcoGozo who generously donated new books to Gozo Libraries. Books in Ukrainian were also donated by the Ukrainian community. Throughout the year, our librarians continued to catalogue all the books purchased by the Gozo Central Public Library and the Gozo Branch Libraries.



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

**OLIVER  
MAMO**  
DIRECTOR,  
NATIONAL  
BIBLIOGRAPHIC  
OFFICE



# NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC OFFICE

For the National Bibliographic Office, 2023 was a very intensive year, in terms of both the recovery of retrospective material as well as cataloguing. The NBO is facing difficulties, namely the lack of spatial resources required both for storage and office purposes and undoubtedly the lack of human resources especially those dedicated to cataloguing work. Discussions on how these challenges can be overcome are ongoing. Action was taken, however, so that in the short term, the NBO could continue its work and growth. Cohorts of foreign students were given the opportunity of internships at the NBO. Apart from the experience that such students gained in their areas of study, they assisted the NBO staff, which in turn helped the NBO to achieve its targets. The following report details the work carried out by the NBO for the year under review.

## BIBLIOGRAPHIC WORK

Bibliographic work commenced primarily with the registration of newly published material on Malta Libraries' library management software. This action intends to limit the delay between the receipt of an item until access to basic data through the online public access catalogue (OPAC) on the entity's portal to the National Library user is granted. The second strand of cataloguing relates to retrospective material. To date, the 300,000 newspaper and journal issues that were targeted as part of project AM/143/2021 entitled Retrospective Cataloguing, has been achieved. Additionally, under the same budgetary measure a further 1,000 retrospective books have been included in the catalogue. The total accumulative figure of 4,000 retrospective books, catalogued and accessible through the OPAC has been achieved. By the end of 2023, the retrospective material held as part of the national collection in Gozo catalogued under the National Library Gozo Cataloguing Project, totaled 166,225 newspaper and journal issues as well as 2,000 monographs. During 2024, this project will mainly focus on cataloguing monographs held within the Melitensia Room of the National Library in Gozo. This room has already been installed with the 'Fixed

Shelf Location' labels and through the cataloguing efforts, this system will be implemented and put into use. Such a system will facilitate the National Library's operations and space management efforts and forecasts.

Another project that the NBO focused on is catalogue enrichment. This is mainly done by attaching the image of the book cover or the earliest newspaper/journal issue cover to its corresponding bibliographic record. This project falls under budgetary measure AM/144/2021. The target of achieving a mean of 450 completed bibliographic records every month has been maintained. Consequently, the current figure of completed bibliographic records has now reached the 16,000 mark.

## LEGAL DEPOSIT

### 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 in Floriana or the National Library in Gozo. Once the Melitensia items are recovered from site they are placed in carton boxes and transported to the NBO 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 on.

All pre-1940 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.



# Malta Herald.

Evening Newspaper

MALTA HERALD TUESDAY 19th JANUARY 1924 ONE PENNY

**Picture Books**  
Let the love of learning be encouraged early in your children. Give them Picture Books for presents. Come and see the stock of Picture Books just received from England. Being nice children you will let them have the best of the stock.

# JOHN BULL

THURSDAY DECEMBER 6th 1923. ONE PENNY  
EDITED by J. J. SCOREY.



## IS LORD PLUMER SATISFIED?

# THE MALTA

The Paper that has

Difficulties without Party

Without Fear or Favor

No. 41  
Our Paper is always open for the insertion of notices of general and public interest. The publication of news, correspondence and news items are not for publication, so indicating that the views expressed by the writers are their own.—S.P.

### NOTES OF THE DAY

Albanian will surely be troubled this year...  
The publication of news, correspondence and news items are not for publication, so indicating that the views expressed by the writers are their own.—S.P.

# ria!

# NO-SALIB

ABBONAMENTI  
Il Bolo...  
GJURNAL TAL FAMILJI  
Johrog darba fil gimgħa  
DIREZIONI U AMMINISTRAZIONI  
143 STRADA FORTI

Parts.

MARZA  
ad  
means  
M U S  
MALTA  
270, Strada  
RELLI  
COTTAGE  
BROTHERS



# IL HADDIEM MALTI

ENGLADD & MALTA FOR EVER

Folja politika, indipendenti, ispirativ u varja tal baddiemta Cattolici. Il johrog darba fil gimgħa. Director ANNA SCHIAPPA.

LEUCEL SENA 17 ta Mejju 1924

# EXCELSIOR!

L'ECU TAL HADDIEM MALTI

DIREZIONI U AMMINISTRAZIONI  
L. HANSEN—54, Strada Santa.  
Il Bolo—2a, S. Maria, Valletta.  
Proprietari—J. SCORRY & Co.  
EDITOR—RICHARD J. J. J.  
STAMPERS—POPULAR PRINTING PRESS  
Leucl Sena 17 ta Mejju 1924

# IL HABIB

Johrog kollu sar ta' terna, herra mil gimgħa u Oħra u...  
L'Internaz...  
L'Internaz...  
L'Internaz...

Internaz...  
L'Internaz...  
L'Internaz...

IT-TIENI SENA  
L'Internaz...  
L'Internaz...  
L'Internaz...

Cllem tad-deheb.  
Hakkna il għas?  
Fost il vizzj...  
Fost il vizzj...  
Fost il vizzj...

# TAL MALTIN MEHTIEG

Illeghu li tagħlim...  
Illeghu li tagħlim...  
Illeghu li tagħlim...

Illeghu li tagħlim...  
Illeghu li tagħlim...  
Illeghu li tagħlim...

Illeghu li tagħlim...  
Illeghu li tagħlim...  
Illeghu li tagħlim...



Once the boxes with recovered material were taken to the NBO in Floriana, these were placed directly in quarantine for the second time, even though there had been only 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 physical condition was noted as poor, fair, very good or mint. Observations 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 included calendars, recipe cards and posters.

The evaluation process undertaken took several factors into consideration. These included a thorough inspection of all documents, regarding 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 MELTENSIA MATERIAL**

The majority of the **1,748 books** recovered during 2023 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 Ms Evelyn Camilleri of Marsaskala who donated books that were previously owned by Lorenza Borg, her mother, who was an avid reader of Maltese fascimiles. Other books recovered were author's J.J. Camilleri's personal collection of mint copies of Klabb Kotba Maltin's earliest issues of *Il-Ktieb tax-Xahar*, whose frontispiece has been scanned and issues processed. This donation was made possible through the generosity of his sons Dennis, Roderick and Franklin. NBO has commenced their processing, including the frontispiece scan and online record creation and shall continue doing so in 2024.

Another very significant donation was that of old Maltese newspapers, published from 1906 onwards, kindly donated by Ms Carmen Wood of Birkirkara. These amounted to **913** items which were sorted by title and are in very good condition. An assessment of the copies held at NLM shall be conducted in 2024 and scanning of documents in pdf format undertaken where required. A comprehensive list of all titles, including some that only ran a few issues before ceasing publication, is shown in this table.

| NAME  | YEARS     | ISSUES |
|---|-----------|--------|
| Il Bandiera tal Maltin                                  | 1911      | 1      |
| Il Berka  | 1930-1941 | 391    |
| Il Bidui  | 1924      | 2      |
| Il Cotra: lehen il Haddiem Malti                        | 1927-1929 | 3      |
| Il Currier: folju imzeuuak b'tagħlim, cajt u ahbarijiet | 1933      | 2      |
| Daily Malta Chronicle                                   | 1913-1933 | 16     |
| Id-Dehen  | 1930-1931 | 57     |
| Id-Dinja  | 1933      | 2      |
| Dr Xecchec  | 1933-1934 | 6      |
| Excelsior!: l'ecu tal Haddiem Malti                     | 1924      | 1      |
| Il Felu   | 1929-1931 | 2      |
| Il Fkir Malti   | 1923      | 10     |
| Il-Furjana: lehen il-F.S.O.B.A.                         | 1955      | 1      |
| Giahan  | 1906      | 2      |
| Il Ħabib  | 1913-1918 | 3      |
| Il Haddiem Malti: England & Malta for ever              | 1921      | 4      |

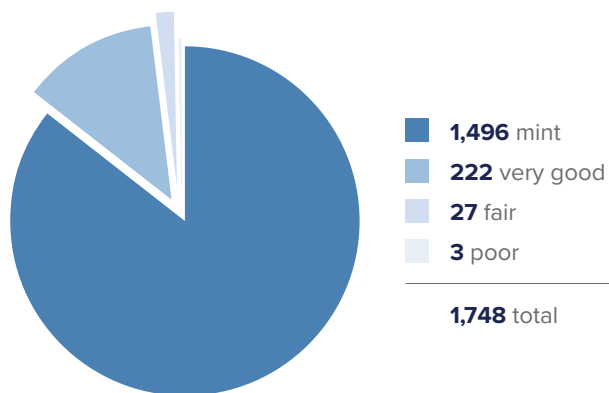
|  |           |     |
|--|-----------|-----|
| Il-Helsien   | 1959-1965 | 4   |
| Il Hmar  | 1917-1934 | 62  |
| Labour Opinion: organu ufficiali tal Partit tal Haddiema | 1922-1926 | 15  |
| Lehen is-Sewwa   | 1928-1939 | 64  |
| Malta: organo del Partito Nazionale                      | 1908      | 1   |
| The Malta Herald: a daily evening newspaper              | 1912-1927 | 2   |
| The Malta John Bull                                      | 1923      | 1   |
| The Malta Labour Leader                                  | 1924      | 5   |
| The Malta Punch  | 1922      | 1   |
| Malta Taghna   | 1908-1918 | 11  |
| Malta tal Maltin   | 1922-1924 | 11  |
| Militia Christi  | 1932      | 1   |
| Patria   | 1923-1924 | 4   |
| Il-Poplu: giurnal Nazjonalista                           | 1934      | 12  |
| Il Progress  | 1921-1924 | 50  |
| Il Progress Times of Malta                               | 1929-1931 | 94  |
| Is-Salib   | 1915      | 2   |
| Times of Malta   | 1923-1955 | 36  |
| L'Unioni Maltija: gazzetta tal Poplu                     | 1919-1920 | 14  |
| The Voice of Malta                                       | 1960-1961 | 2   |
| Ix-Xewka: varja u indipendenti                           | 1965      | 1   |
| Ix-Xemx  | 1928-1929 | 17  |
| Others   |           | 913 |

Also recovered were **438** periodicals that were sorted by edition and issue. Verification on records already in repositories was undertaken. 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, as well as the Junior College in Msida.

NBO also recovered **47 audiovisual** records, including the TV series *Giselle* that featured on One TV in 2006-2008 and the Holy Week activities in Bormla published in VHS format in 1998. During 2023 the NBO identified a number of content creators of audiovisual material, and sought for their publications to be deposited. A number of music releases have been received after the turn of the year and shall be accounted for in the forthcoming annual report. **852 ephemera** documents were also registered, mainly being flyers, calendars, posters and recipe cards material.

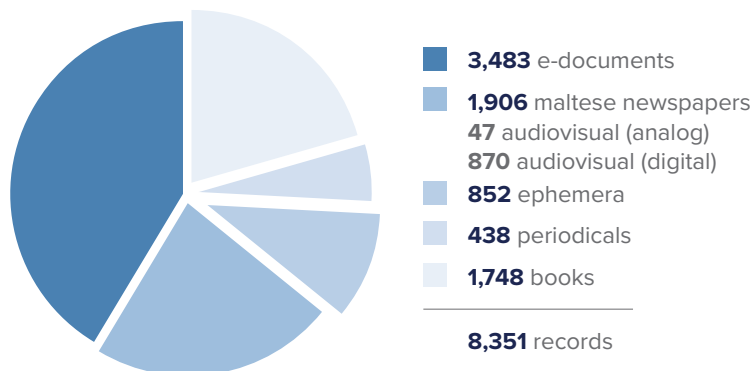
During the first half of 2023 retrospective Melitensia books that had been recovered had their respective frontispiece scanned and the bibliographic data uploaded on the national catalogue.

### CONDITION OF BOOKS RECOVERED



From this pie chart one considers the high amount of mint publications (85.6%), or in very good status (12.7%), 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 preceding years, the predominant genre of mint publications was of a devotional content or Maltese poetry books, whereas those in a very good condition included many children’s literature and various non-fiction categories in English.

### TYPES OF RECORDS RECOVERED



The total amount of 8,351 of records recovered in one calendar year surpasses that of 8,029 of 2022.

## AUDIT OF BAND CLUB ANNUALS HELD IN OUR REPOSITORIES

The Maltese festa is an event that is celebrated in all parishes of Malta and Gozo. There are various content creators of the Maltese festas, primarily: i) band clubs, ii) parishes, iii) the external festivities committees that are segmented in street decorations including festoons, and the pyrotechnic committee or sections. Hence a singular Maltese festa can generate up to five publications.

### *The NBO recovery process*

The NBO prioritised this recovery exercise in early 2023 with the awareness that Malta had applied to UNESCO for the Maltese festa to be recognised on the list of intangible cultural world heritage. This status has been awarded very recently. Therefore NBO opted to address the largest content creator, the band clubs, of which there are over 90. This project is being conducted by Dr Steve Borg, senior manager of legal deposit at NBO.

The original document provided by the NLM and compiled by Donald Briffa. referred to all material related to festa publications held at that repository, including those published by parishes and external activities committees. It was a clear indication that the national collection was scant and pervaded with missing issues, a situation emanating from poor collection control in past decades, partly due to an acute dearth in technical personnel.

Through the assistance of Chris Galea at the NLM repository in Gozo, NBO had a clearer picture of what was required to fulfil the minimum of two copies at our repositories, and a second copy where possible. Communication was made by the NBO with all band clubs regarding their legal deposit obligations. Concurrently, the NBO acquired, through the assistance of Norbert Bugeja at the Central Public Library, hundreds of mint festa programmes kindly donated by MCAST. All their copies were registered, frontispieces scanned and documents assigned to the respective repositories.

In December 2023 Dr Steve Borg also recovered hundreds of missing annual festa issues in mint condition thanks to a co-operative effort with the Junior College Library UoM in Msida, with special thanks to Mr Mark Anthony Poulton, Ms Katja Zahra Camilleri and Mr Ivan Portelli.

Processing of these recovered annuals commenced in January 2024 and the respective numbers processed with a descriptive chart of current holdings and missing issues shall be published in the forthcoming annual report. Having also identified the first known publication of all content creators will enable NBO to quantify the amount of issues hitherto unrecovered.

In 2024 the NBO intends to start recovering all other festa-related publications, and work started in 2023 with those pertaining to the three parishes and four feasts in Valletta.

## HARVESTED MALTESE E-DOCUMENTS

The previous year saw the content analysis & filenaming of **70** local council e-documents, **93** financing e-reports; 141 constituted bodies e-documents; **373** NGOs & associations e-reports and e-magazines; **93** government entities e-annual reports; **685** retrospective and current governmental e-magazines; **1,032** Malta Blue Book e-documents and 81 governmental strategic plans, policy papers and their annexes and attachments and **915** Maltese diaspora e-newsletters. The NBO thanks Mr Dan Brock and Mr Frank L. Scicluna who have provided back issues of e-newsletters concerning news on the Maltese diaspora in North America and Australia. This brings a total of **3,483** e-documents harvested during 2023.

Throughout 2023 audiovisual e-publications available on YouTube were downloaded and filenamed in order of their date of upload on the social platform and harvested. These included **51** of Jon Mallia's 2023 podcasts and **221** pertaining to all Claire Farrugia's podcasts. A list of audiovisual publications of government entities focusing on Maltese culture and environment is also presented, with **598** audiovisual publications downloaded in 2023.

## MALTESE CULTURAL &amp; ENVIRONMENTAL NGOS AUDIOVISUAL E-PUBLICATIONS 2008 - 2023

| ABBR.                              | ENTITY                                      | AV FILES   | 2023 | 2022 | 2021   | 2020 | 2019 |
|------------------------------------|---|------------|------|------|--------|------|------|
| <b>ACM</b>                         | Kunsill Malti għall-Arti                    | <b>575</b> | TH   | 2    | 3 / TH | 31   | 109  |
| <b>EG</b>                          | Eco-Gozo                                    | <b>52</b>  | 0    | 0    | 0      | 0    | 0    |
| <b>EM</b>                          | Environment Malta                           | <b>4</b>   | 4    | 0    | 0      | 0    | 0    |
| <b>ERA</b>                         | Environment Resources Authority             | <b>61</b>  | 8    | 0    | 0      | 0    | 11   |
| <b>FĊN</b>                         | Fondazzjoni Ċelebrazzjonijiet Nazzjonali    | <b>39</b>  | 0    | 0    | 0      | 0    | 0    |
| <b>FM</b>                          | Festivals Malta                             | <b>170</b> | TH   | TH   | TH     | 32   | 42   |
| <b>HM</b>                          | Heritage Malta                              | <b>431</b> | 81   | 52   | 102    | 63   | 19   |
| <b>KNK</b>                         | Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Ktieb                | <b>296</b> | TH   | TH   | 58     | 64   | 8    |
| <b>MICAS</b>                       | Malta International Contemporary Arts Space | <b>28</b>  | 4    | 8    | 16     | 0    | 0    |
| <b>ML</b>                          | Malta Libraries                             | <b>57</b>  | 0    | 5    | 7      | 7    | 0    |
| <b>MPO</b>                         | Malta Philharmonic Orchestra                | <b>261</b> | 3    | 12   | 50     | 99   | 7    |
| <b>NAM</b>                         | National Archives of Malta                  | <b>67</b>  | 3    | 0    | 22     | 9    | 1    |
| <b>SM</b>                          | Screen Malta                                | <b>9</b>   | 3    | 3    | 0      | 0    | 1    |
| <b>SCH</b>                         | Superintendence of Cultural Heritage        | <b>1</b>   | 1    | 0    | 0      | 0    | 0    |
| <b>SEM</b>                         | Servizzi Ewropej f'Malta                    | <b>157</b> | TH   | TH   | TH     | 3    | 15   |
| <b>SK</b>                          | Spazju Kreattiv                             | <b>330</b> | 20   | 55   | 42     | 13   | 15   |
| <b>TEM</b>                         | Teatru Manoel                               | <b>67</b>  | 0    | 0    | 0      | 6    | 1    |
| <b>TT</b>                          | Taħdita Teatru                              | <b>35</b>  | 11   | 7    | 4      | 8    | 5    |
| <b>V18</b>                         | Valletta 2018                               | <b>161</b> | NA   | NA   | NA     | NA   | 4    |
| <b>VCA</b>                         | Valletta Cultural Agency                    | <b>7</b>   | TH   | TH   | TH     | 4    | 3    |
| <b>WBRU</b>                        | Wild Birds Regulation Unit                  | <b>1</b>   | 0    | 0    | 0      | 0    | 0    |
| <b>WM</b>                          | WasteServ Malta                             | <b>127</b> | TH   | TH   | 13     | 7    | 3    |
| <b>22 ENTITIES</b>                 |   |            |      |      |        |      |      |
| <b>TOTAL= 2,936 E-PUBLICATIONS</b> |   |            |      |      |        |      |      |

\*TH = to harvest

\*NA = not applicable

| 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 |  |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--|
| 116  | 79   | 90   | 87   | 48   | 1    | 0    | 6    | 3    | 0    | 0    |  |
| 0    | 0    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 1    | 44   | 5    | 0    | 0    |  |
| 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |  |
| 14   | 3    | 24   | 1    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |  |
| 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 39   | NA   | NA   | NA   | NA   | NA   | NA   |  |
| 55   | 41   | NA   | NA   | NA   | NA   | NA   | NA   | NA   | NA   | NA   | <i>Festivals Malta was founded in 2017.</i>                        |
| 30   | 3    | 3    | 12   | 3    | 24   | 23   | 2    | 12   | 2    | 0    |  |
| 84   | 38   | 34   | 10   | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |  |
| 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |  |
| 1    | 0    | 0    | 39   | 2    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |  |
| 25   | 46   | 19   | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |  |
| 7    | 11   | 3    | 5    | 5    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |  |
| 1    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |  |
| 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |  |
| 9    | 7    | 2    | 31   | 9    | 12   | 28   | 41   | 0    | 0    | 0    | <i>Formerly known as the Malta-EU Steering Action Committee.</i>   |
| 16   | 62   | 104  | 3    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |  |
| 42   | 7    | 9    | 1    | 0    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |  |
| 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |  |
| 52   | 24   | 13   | 29   | 10   | 10   | 19   | NA   | NA   | NA   | NA   |  |
| NA   | NA   | NA   | NA   | NA   | NA   | NA   | NA   | NA   | NA   | NA   | <i>Valletta co-hosted the European Capital of Culture in 2018.</i> |
| 0    | 0    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |  |
| 16   | 14   | 26   | 34   | 0    | 2    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 0    | 25   |  |

## HARVESTED ANNUAL E-REPORTS OF GOVERNMENT ENTITIES 2000 - 2023

|   | ABBR.    | 2023 | 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.  |
| Agenzija Sapport  | ASA      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |   |
| Agenzija Żgħazagh                                       | AŽ       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |   |
| Airmalta  | AM       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |   |
| Arbiter for Financial Services, Office of               | OAFS     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | Founded in 2016.  |
| Arts Council - Malta                                    | ACM      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |   |
| Asset Recovery Bureau                                   | ARB      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | Founded in 2018 succeeding the Asset Management Unit.   |
| 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      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |   |
| Commissioner for Older Persons                          | CFOP     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | Established in 2016 through the Commissioner of Older Persons Act, Chapter 553 of the Laws of Malta.                    |
| 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      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |   |
| Debt Management Directorate - Treasury Department       | DMD      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | Established in 2006 within the Treasury Department, with legal status in 2017 through Chapter 575 of the Laws of Malta. |
| 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     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |   |
| Department of Social Security                           | DSS      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |   |
| 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       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |   |
| English Language Teaching                               | ELT      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |   |
| Environment Resources Authority                         | ERA      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | Reports prior to 2017 published by MEPA.  |



Annual harvested
  Biennial harvested
  Awaiting deposit
  Awaiting publication

| ABBR.   | 2023       | 2022 | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 | 2002 | 2001 | 2000 | REMARKS |   |
|---|------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|---------|---|
| — Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment   | WEEE       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |   |
| e-Skills Malta Foundation   | ESMF       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         | <i>Founded in</i>   |
| EU FUNDS  |            |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |   |
| — European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development                                | EAFRD      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |   |
| — European Economic Area & Norway   | EEAN       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |   |
| — 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  | FIAU       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |   |
| Foundation for Educational Services   | FES        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |   |
| Foundation Social Welfare Services  | FSWS       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |   |
| — Agency for Community & Therapeutic Services                                     | ACTS       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |   |
| — Agenzija Appoġġ   | AAP        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         | <i>See FSWS</i>   |
| — Agenzija Sedqa  | ASE        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         | <i>See FSWS</i>   |
| — Alternative Care  | ACARE      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |   |
| — Child Protection Directorate  | CPD        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |   |
| — Foundation Social Welfare Services Gozo   | FSWSG      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |   |
| Foundation for Tomorrow's Schools   | FTS        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |   |
| Gozo Regional Development Authority   | GRDA       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         | <i>Founded in 2021.</i>   |
| Health Care Services Standards Dir. - Haemovigilance                              | HCSSDH     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         | <i>First national haemovigilance report published in 2007.</i>  |
| Heritage Malta  | HM         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         | <i>Founded in 2003, with retrospective reports back to 1903 published by the Department of Museums.</i> |
| Housing Authority   | HA         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |   |
| — annual Malta residential rental study report                                    | HA-MRRS    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |   |

| ABBR.  | 2023       | 2022 | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 | 2002 | 2001 | 2000 | REMARKS |   |
|--|------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|---------|---|
| Human Rights Directorate                                       |            |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |   |
| — Human Rights Initiative Unit                                 | HRD-HRIU   | ■    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |   |
| — Human Trafficking Monitoring Committee                       | HTMC       |      |      |      | ■    |      |      |      |      | ■    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |   |
| — LGBTQIQ  | HRD-LGBTIQ | ■    | ■    | ■    | ■    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |   |
| Identity Malta   | IM         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         | First annual report published in 2020.                          |
| Information & Data Protection Commissioner                     | IDPC       | ■    | ■    |      |      | ■    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         | As per Regulation (EU) 2016/679.                                |
| Institute for Education  | IFE        |      |      |      | ■    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |   |
| Institute for the Public Services - Work-life balance measures | IPS        | ■    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |   |
| Jobsplus   | JP         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         | Formerly ETC.   |
| Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Ktieb                                   | KNK        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         | First annual report issued covered 2013.                        |
| Malta Air Traffic Services                                     | MATS       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |   |
| Malta Business Registry  | MBR        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |   |
| Malta College of Arts, Science & Technology                    | MCAST      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |   |
| Malta Communications Authority                                 | MCA        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |   |
| Malta Competition & Consumer Affairs Authority                 | MCCAA      | ■    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |   |
| Malta Council for Economic & Social Development                | MCESD      | ■    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         | Council was founded in 2019.                                    |
| — 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        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |   |

| ABBR.  | 2023    | 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 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.                   |
| 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.           |
| — Governance. Action on the Parliamentary Ombudsman's annual report      | OPPS-PO |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |  |
| — Hidma tas-servizz pubbliku fl-ahhar tnax-il xahar                      | OPPS    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |  |
| — Mizuri ta' Simplifikazzjoni  | OPPS    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |  |
| — People & Standards Division  | PSD     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         | Division emerged from PAHRO in 2017.   |
| — Public Administration Human Resources Office                           | PAHRO   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |  |
| — It-Twettiq tal-Bagitt  | OPPS    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |  |
| Office of the Regulator 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.                   |
| Planning Authority   | PA      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |  |
| Plant Protection Directorate   | PPD     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         | Previously known as the Plant Health Directorate.                            |
| Primary Health Care  | PHC     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |  |
| Public Service Commission  | PSC     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         | Established in 1960 through the Public Service Commission Regulations.       |
| Radiation Protection Commission  | RPC     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         | Previously known as the Radiation Protection Board.                          |

|   | ABBR.    | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 | 2002 | 2001 | 2000 | REMARKS |  |
|---|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|---------|--|
| 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).    |
| Standing Committee for Foreign & European Affairs                             | SCFEA    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |  |
| 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   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |  |
| Eurocontrol - Local Single Sky Implementation (LSSIP) annual report for Malta | TM-EUROC |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |  |
| 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    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |  |
| — Gender Equality & Sexual Diversity Committee                                | UMGESDC  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |  |
| — Islands & Small States Institute  | UMISSI   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |  |
| — Research, Innovation & Development Trust                                    | UMRIDT   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |  |
| — Systems & Control Engineering, Department of                                | UMSCE    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |  |
| Victim Support Agency   | VSA      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         | Agency was established through L.N. 418 of 2020.                           |
| Water Services Corporation  | WSC      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |  |

## LEGAL DEPOSIT AND BARCODING

The NBO is also the receiving office for the legal deposit of Maltese publications. During 2023 it received **401** titles published locally for the current year, and an additional **237** titles that had been published in previous years. It also received **434** printed periodicals published at the end of 2022 and during 2023. Efforts by correspondence or telecons are also being made to recover printed or digital copies of past periodicals. The barcoding process of past publications, recovered during outreach exercises, and held as NLM holdings, continued with the input of Erasmus+ internship students throughout the year.

During 2023 efforts were sustained by NBO in registering and barcoding held at the National Library of Malta. This encompassed archiving **2,626** issues of *Il-Mument*, **454** issues of *Illum* and **10,271** issues of *I-Orizzont*.



**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 the 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. Its remit includes the management of all ICT-related contracts with third-party suppliers, including MITA and the enterprise system's supplier. The ICTSU provides a first line of support to staff on all ICT-related matters including the Library Information System, as well as requests for the configuration of various ICT-related accesses to Malta Libraries' employees. It is also responsible for the maintenance of the network infrastructure in the four Main Libraries and seven Regional Libraries. It also advises the respective Local Councils on the network requirements of the respective Branch Libraries that are co-managed with Malta Libraries. There are 48 Branch Libraries distributed between Malta and Gozo and all of them receive Library Information support and training from the ICTSU.

The Unit also contributes directly to the creation of the entity's ICT-related policies and is responsible for their

implementation while also monitoring the entity's adherence to general Government ICT-related policies and standards. The ICTSU also supports State and Church School Libraries, and other Government Department Libraries that are migrated onto the Malta Libraries' Information System. It also conducts all the required training in the use of the Library Information System to all library counter personnel.

## 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 Malta Libraries. A total of four quarterly reports are issued to the Council every year.

## SUPPORT TO THE NATIONAL LITERACY AGENCY

Twenty-five State School Libraries have already been merged within the Malta Libraries Information System. The ICTSU provides continuous support to the respective Teacher Librarians where the Library Information System is concerned. This support includes the configuration of specific circulation policies that are endemic to Government School Libraries, training, and monthly reports that are submitted to this Agency.

# SUPPORT TO CHURCH SCHOOL LIBRARIES

An increasing number of Church School Libraries have been merged within the Malta Libraries Information System. There are currently 11 Church School Libraries with an additional three to be added in 2024. As above, the ICTSU provides continuous support to the respective Teacher Librarians where the Library Information System is concerned, including the configuration of specific circulation policies into the Library System that are endemic to Church School Libraries and all the training required.

# POST COVID-19 PANDEMIC

During the pandemic, although Malta Libraries endeavoured to keep all its services running as smoothly as possible, a few of its services had to be suspended temporarily to adhere to the Health and Safety Regulations that were in place at that time. Two of these services included the Book Reservations Service previously available online and from all library counters, and the availability of Internet PCs used by the public in several Library Halls and Reading Rooms. These services have both been brought back in place by the ICTSU during 2023. Librarians were also required to attend retraining conducted by the ICTSU on the management of the Reservations Module.







## DELIVERY OF TRAINING ON THE USE OF THE LIBRARY INFORMATION SYSTEM AND ALL ITS ANCILLARY SERVICES

The year 2023 saw the introduction of the Church School Libraries within St Aloysius College and St Augustine College into the Malta Libraries network. The ICTSU delivered the required training to the respective librarians in April. Several refresher sessions were also conducted between September and November to re-align all librarians in the use of the Reservations Module, a service that was suspended for almost three years during the pandemic. A four-day course in the use of the Library System on Library Counters was also conducted by the ICTSU in December for newly recruited librarians.

## NEW PUBLIC WI-FI INFRASTRUCTURE

During 2023, the ICTSU replaced its previous Public and Admin Wi-Fi Services with a more adequate and flexible Wi-Fi infrastructure mostly based on the recent Wi-Fi 6 technology in the four main libraries being the National Library of Malta and the Gozo Annex, the Central Public Library in Floriana and the Gozo Central Public Library in Victoria. New areas within these buildings could now be more easily enabled with Wi-Fi and roaming throughout the whole buildings and even between the same buildings has now been made possible.

## TEAMS TELEPHONY

Following the introduction of this service to the National Library in Valletta and the Central Public Library in Floriana, this service has now been extended to all the staff within the Gozo Central Public Library and the National Library's Annex in Victoria.

## ENHANCEMENTS ADDED TO ALREADY EXISTING ONLINE SERVICES

Malta Libraries, like all other libraries around the globe, makes use of Borrower Library Cards for its patrons to avail themselves of all its services. The Library Card, whether it is printed with any of the widely available variety of barcode numbers or any other machine-readable identification codes, has held, for many decades, the main means of unique identification for each of its patrons. Now, the ICTSU has also introduced the National e-ID Identification method in the Malta Libraries' portal as a another means of identification for patrons to avail themselves of several online services found on [maltalibraries.gov.mt](https://maltalibraries.gov.mt).

The ICTSU has also introduced a Secure Online Payments Service through the Government Payment Gateway for all the payment requirements issued to Library Patrons via Customer Care and other Reader Services.

## MIGRATION OF LIBRARY SERVERS TO THE CLOUD

Malta Libraries' Library Information Servers were migrated from MITA's on-prem cloud to MITA's Microsoft's Azure Cloud in November 2023. The portal and other services such as the Libby and the Iguana Library Apps had to be pulled down during the migration, but Malta Libraries, together with its supplier, managed to limit this downtime to just three days until all the data was migrated between the old and new servers and the required testing was conducted. All our libraries stayed open during the migration but had to operate on manual in the interim.



**JOANNE  
SCIBERRAS**  
DIRECTOR,  
LIBRARY  
OPERATIONS



# OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

# 1. INTRODUCTION

This report encapsulates the Operations Department's efforts, achievements, and financial stewardship in supporting Malta Libraries' mission 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.

# 2. DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Operations Department serves as the backbone of the library, ensuring the efficient allocation of resources and the smooth operation of administrative functions. It is responsible for overseeing and managing the day-to-day activities that are essential for the entity to function effectively and efficiently. It plays a critical role in ensuring that various processes run smoothly, resources are utilised optimally, and objectives are achieved. The Operations Department also oversees the operations of two other important Units – The Outreach Unit and the Curatorial Affairs Unit.

Responsibilities include:

- Human Resources
- Programme initiation and implementation
- Direct co-ordination of the preparation of Malta Libraries' annual Financial Estimates and administration of its 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.

### 3. HUMAN RESOURCES – KEY HIGHLIGHTS

This concise overview highlights our achievements, challenges, and ongoing initiatives in nurturing a thriving workforce.

- Staff Matters – The entity’s headcount at the end of 2023 stood at 102 with a staff turnover of 1%. The staff complement includes all the employees in Malta and Gozo and incorporates four RSSL employees and two other employees from ERL as shown in the table below:

---

|   |           |                               |           |                      |
|---|-----------|-------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|
|  | <b>3</b>  | CEO'S OFFICE                  | <b>25</b> | PUBLIC LIBRARY MALTA |
|   | <b>8</b>  | NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC OFFICE | <b>3</b>  | PUBLIC LIBRARY GOZO  |
|   | <b>17</b> | OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT         | <b>12</b> | REGIONAL LIBRARIES   |
|   | <b>16</b> | NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MALTA     | <b>10</b> | MAINTENANCE          |
|   | <b>7</b>  | NATIONAL LIBRARY GOZO         | <b>1</b>  | ICT SUPPORT UNIT     |
|   |           |                               |           |                      |

---

The following vacancy calls were issued during the year:

Posts/Positions 2023

POSITION OF DEPUTY LIBRARIAN PUBLIC LIBRARIES – ONE EMPLOYEE STARTED NOVEMBER 2023

EXTERNAL POST OF LIBRARY ATTENDANT – ONE EMPLOYEE STARTED NOVEMBER 2023

EXTERNAL POST OF LIBRARY ASSISTANT – TWO EMPLOYEES TO START 2024

## OTHER HR MATTERS

---

**4** OFFICERS ON SECONDMENT

**27** EMPLOYEES ON REMOTE WORKING

**2** EMPLOYEES ON A REDUCED TIMETABLE

**12** EMPLOYEES ON FLEXTIME

---

## TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

Our investment in employee growth underscores our commitment to individual and organisational success. Once again employees were encouraged to participate in seminars and training offered by the Institute for Public Services (IPS). Several employees are also attending courses at UoM as follows:

1. One officer continued a UoM Degree in Public Sector Accounting
2. One officer continued a UoM Degree in Public Management
3. Two officers continued a UoM Degree in Librarianship

## HEALTH AND SAFETY COURSES

Maintaining health and safety standards in libraries is essential for protecting the welfare of patrons and staff, ensuring operational continuity, and promoting a positive and welcoming environment for all users. Health and safety courses and training play a critical role in equipping individuals with the knowledge, skills, and awareness necessary to identify and mitigate risks in the workplace. By undergoing such training, employees learn about potential hazards, emergency procedures, and best practices for maintaining a safe and healthy working environment. During 2023 training was provided to various employees on the following topics:

- Fire Safety
- First Aid and Safety at Work
- Adult & Paediatric First Aid
- Basic & Paediatric First Aid
- Manual Handling and Lifting

## 4. FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT

The following report provides an overview of the finance and procurement activities within our library system over the past fiscal year. It highlights key achievements, challenges faced, and strategies implemented to ensure effective financial management and procurement processes.

### BUDGET ALLOCATION

Malta Libraries received an annual budget of EUR 3,700,000 divided in quarterly tranches of EUR 925,000. This budget was also supplemented by the allocation of funds through Capital and Programme and Initiative Votes as follows:

|           |                             |              |
|-----------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Item 5538 | Acquisition of Books        | EUR 170,000* |
| Item 7188 | National Bibliotheca        | EUR 100,000  |
| Item 7605 | Property, Plant & Equipment | EUR 150,000  |

### \*TABLE ON EXPENDITURE – ACQUISITION OF BOOKS

**€69,269.75**

**NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MALTA**

**€80,979.83**

**PUBLIC LIBRARIES**

**€19,385.25**

**EBOOKS**

### TENDERS AND CLOSED QUOTATIONS

During 2023, Malta Libraries issued the following Tenders and Closed Quotations:

SERVICE CONTRACT FOR FRAMEWORK CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF REDUCED ENVIRONMENT IMPACT CLEANING SERVICES AT MALTA LIBRARIES



# OUTREACH AND MARKETING

## OUTREACH AT FESTIVALS, EXPOS AND FAIRS

Malta Libraries kept its yearly appointment at the **Malta Book Festival** (MFCC, Ta' Qali) in November, where the entity not only promoted its services and enrolled new members on site, but the Outreach Team also organised ad hoc on-stand reading sessions with students and family groups to encourage the joy of reading for pleasure. On the initiative of the Istituto Italiano di Cultura and in collaboration with Fondazione per Leggere (Milano), Malta Libraries took part in a 'Networking event for librarians'. The event provided a platform for librarians and publishing sector professionals to discuss hot topics like the promotion of a reading culture in the digital age and the support to and development of Public Libraries Services.

The entity took part in several festivals and expos to promote its services throughout 2023 with the aim of attracting audiences that would otherwise be difficult to access. Malta Libraries' presence at the three-day **Public Service Expo** in May 2023 focused on promoting the libraries' digital services on a stand curated by the Ministry for National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government. **Festalingwi** in September – a festival organised by the European Commission Representation in Malta at the Valletta University Campus to celebrate the European Day of Languages – offered Malta Libraries the opportunity to promote the ever-growing collections of physical and digital material in different languages which may be borrowed from across the Public Libraries' Network.

**Notte Bianca** is one yearly appointment which, on the other hand, comes to the National Library of Malta to offer the entity the opportunity not only to showcase its star library and its collections but to also promote membership and services to the general public during their exploratory route through the capital city.





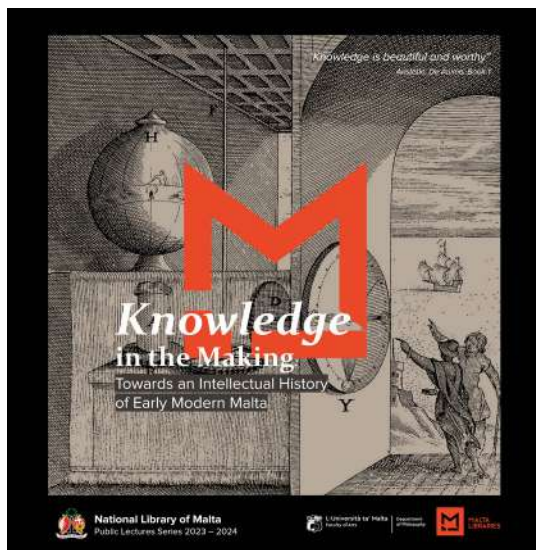
# PUBLIC LECTURES AND PUBLICATIONS

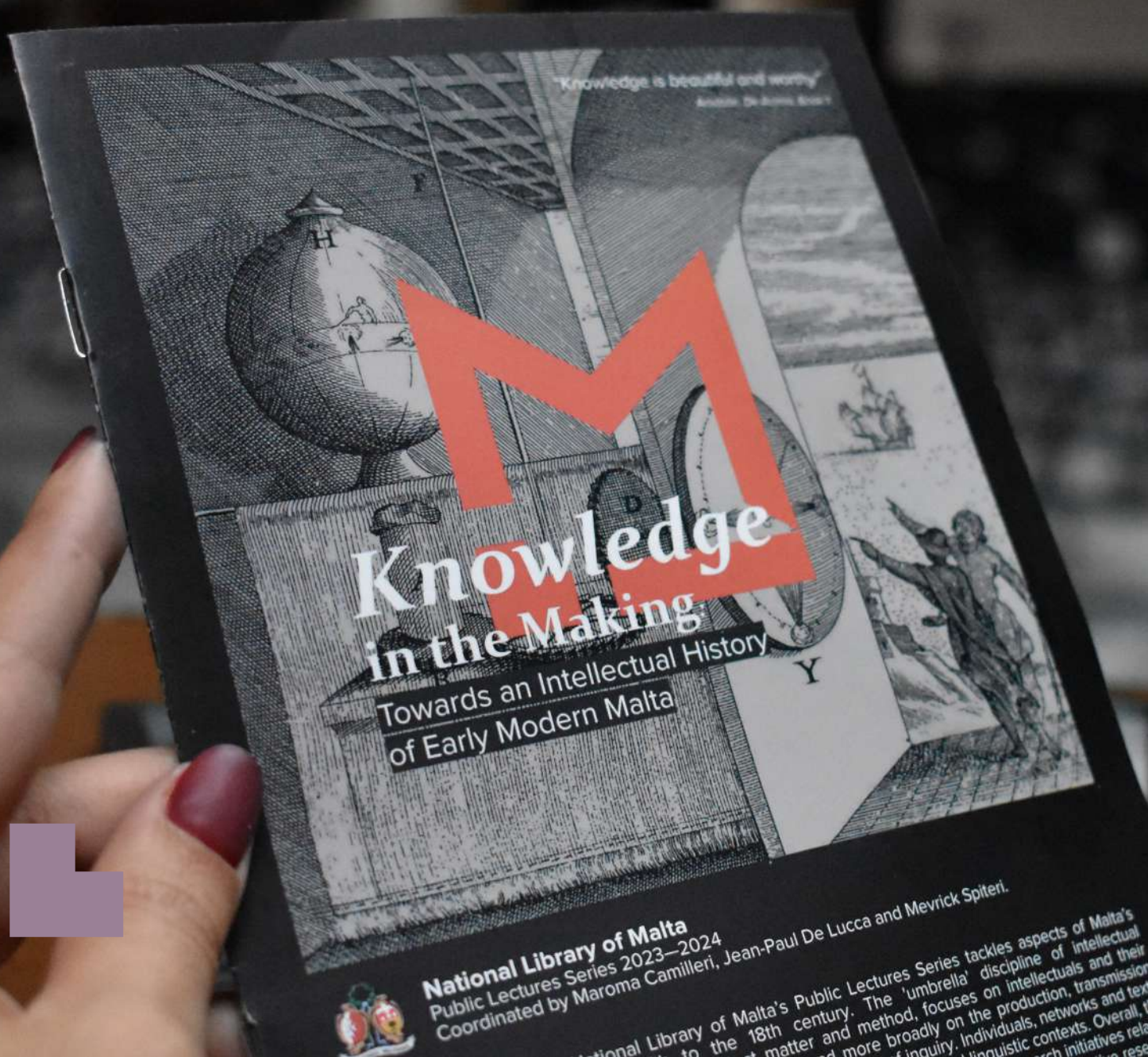
Back in 2018, Malta Libraries started organising an annual theme-based series of free public lectures in the Reading Room of the National Library of Malta with the aim of solidifying the National Library as the centre of knowledge and learning that it has always been.

2023 saw the continuation of the 5th series of on-site lectures **CREATED TO INSPIRE: 500 Years of Artistic Splendour in Malta** and the launch of the 6th series of **KNOWLEDGE IN THE MAKING: Towards an Intellectual History of Early Modern Malta** in November. This 6th edition – coordinated by Maroma Camilleri and Mevrick Spiteri from Malta Libraries and Jean-Paul De Lucca from the Department of Philosophy at the University of Malta – tackled aspects of Malta's intellectual history from the 17th to the 18th century. It was formulated with the intention of taking stock of the current state of research and ongoing research initiatives related to Malta's early modern intellectual history, as well as to open new avenues for collaborative research and appraise the holdings of the National Library.

All lectures across both series were accompanied by one-evening-only exhibits complementing the subject matter being tackled by the experts and featured relevant documents from the National Library collection as well as loaned artefacts from public and private collections.

Moreover, at the end of Q4, the proceedings from the public lectures series of 2020-2021, a series of lectures executed in documentary format, was published as a hardbound publication entitled **MALTA'S ROAD TO AUTONOMY: 100 years on from the 1921 self-government**. This publication, edited by series coordinators Maroma Camilleri and Mevrick Spiteri and dedicated to the memory of J.J. Cremona (1918-2020), brings together papers by Charles Dalli, Michael Frendo, Giovanni Bonello, Godfrey Pirotta, André P. Debattista and Dominic Fenech; includes a lavish plates section relating to the lectures.





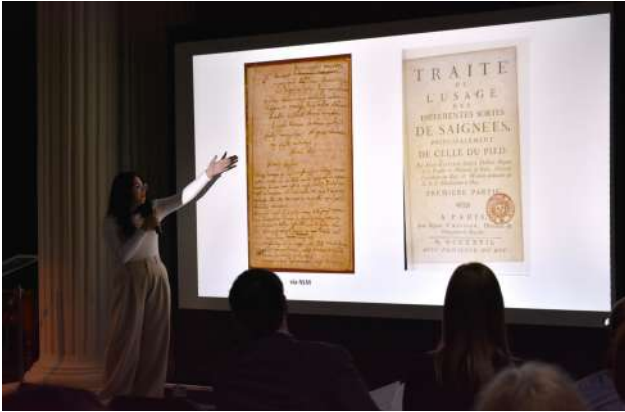
"Knowledge is beautiful and worthy"  
Aristotle, De Anima, Book 1

# Knowledge in the Making

Towards an Intellectual History  
of Early Modern Malta

**National Library of Malta**  
Public Lectures Series 2023–2024  
Coordinated by Maroma Camilleri, Jean-Paul De Lucca and Mevrick Spiteri.

National Library of Malta's Public Lectures Series tackles aspects of Malta's intellectual history to the 18th century. The 'umbrella' discipline of intellectual history, which examines the matter and method, focuses on intellectuals and their work, and more broadly on the production, transmission and reception of knowledge and more broadly on the production, transmission and reception of knowledge. Individuals, networks and texts are examined in their linguistic contexts. Overall, the series aims to support research initiatives related to the history of knowledge.



# SUMMER PROGRAMME

Malta Libraries' Summer Programme of on-site events for the young took on a different guise in 2023. 'An Introduction to the World of Comic Book Art' - an 8-session course with artists and experts in the field – was organised by the entity in collaboration with the NGO Graphic Novels Library Malta for participants aged 13+ at the Central Public Library in Floriana. The course, which kicked off in July, was designed to provide a holistic overview of the genre and to tutor in the creative process of comic/manga making. Lecturers included Dean Fenech, Vincienne Scerri, Fabio Agius, François Galea, Ashley Eric Peschel and Redent Camilleri. Students were given two weeks to complete their projects which were then compiled into a limited-edition commemorative publication by editor and GNLM President Peter Magro.

The publication, An Introduction to the World of Comic Book Art: The Anthology was launched during a certificate-giving ceremony which formed part of the programme for the annual Christmas event held at the same library in December.





# INITIATIVES AND COLLABORATIONS

In the year under review, **Mixjet il-Malti** returned to the National Library in April for the annual exhibit of original manuscripts, journals and books that played a seminal role 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 exam. 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** which was attended by students and their parents.

**Carnival, Halloween** and **Christmas** were celebrated extensively throughout the network but especially in the newly renovated ground floor library at the Central Public Library, Floriana. The modern open halls and soundproof reading and lecture area offered an attractive new space for patrons to experience the library as they've never experienced it before. These yearly appointments included several reading sessions, hands-on craft sessions, educational games as well as fundraising book and bake sales. A similar programme was put up on the **40th Anniversary of the Central Public Library** in June.

The **Central Public Library Monthly Shelf in the Junior Library** – a staff-curated initiative – continued throughout 2023, 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. Moreover, in August, students from Tokyo Keiza University organised '**Spread the Japanese Culture**', a cultural awareness morning at the Central Public Library where they taught drop-in visitors all about the Japanese craft of Origami and the traditional Japanese Matcha Tea Ceremony.











# FILMING & THIRD-PARTY EVENTS

Malta Libraries continued to open its doors to more collaborations, photoshoots and video shoots by making its venues available for the filming of features, shoots and artistic displays, to name 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.

In 2023 the Reading Room of the National Library continued to serve as the backdrop for all filmed episodes of 'Kitbiet Minsija' and 'Kelma Kuljum' and one-off episodes of local TV programmes 'The Local Traveller', 'Wirt u Eredi', 'Ġimgha b'Ġimgha' and 'Arkitetti li sawru l' Malta'. The National Library also hosted the filming of a foreign action movie (currently in production), film crews of historic documentaries which consulted material from the library's own collections and the filming of a promo for an awards ceremony starring David Walliams.

The **Valletta Baroque Festival** returned to the National Library in January 2023 with two daytime concerts by classical musicians Avi Vital and duo Sarah Spiteri and Pablo Zapico. Another **concert organised by the German Embassy in Malta** was also held in the beginning of November and consisted of music for mezzo-soprano and classical guitar. The international Maltese mezzo-soprano Clare Ghigo teamed up with the German international guitarist Laura Lootens for an exquisite selection of Maltese and German music. The concert also included the premier of the 'Swar Suite' for mezzo-soprano and guitar by international Maltese composer Reuben Pace.

Moreover, the National Library of Malta was honoured to host two **Civil Wedding Ceremonies** and several **Personal, Fashion and Wedding Photoshoots** throughout the year under review.



# 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, ongoing campaigns such as **#teammaltalibraries** and the **Local Library Spotlight** campaign celebrate the locations and the people behind them to further personalise the library experience.

The promotion of new books is an ongoing commitment and via **#LIBBYmosts** we celebrate the most borrowed authors and e-titles per month. 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 biographical notes and curious fact posts on our Facebook pages and Instagram accounts.

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. **New Facebook pages** for Malta Libraries, the National Library of Malta and Central Public Library – Malta were re-launched following an unfortunate hack in Q4 and several Regional and Branch libraries in the network were assisted in building their own page to better serve their respective patrons and communities. 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**, in-person interviews on a number of TV and radio programmes and paid promotional campaigns on the TV programme **GADGETS** as well as on the **GWIDA** online platform, 2023 saw us reaching out to even newer and more varied audiences from across the islands.



**Happy Birthday to the National Library of Malta**

Since its inauguration on June 4, 1812, the National Library of Malta has continued to expand its collections

During the Chapter-General of 1776, Grand Master Emmanuel de Rohan decreed the building of a new *Pubblica Bibliotheca*. Eight years later, Polish-Italian architect Stefano Ittar (1724 or 30 - 1790) was commissioned to design the new building. Ittar had studied in Rome but in 1765 settled in Catania and was responsible for the design of a number of important buildings in that city. He was invited to



**SUNETTI**  
Maltese Verses of Praise & Celebration

The Subliminal Influence of Malta and Gozo over Time for present and future generations that find their roots in our rich cultural heritage of Malta and Gozo.

Malta's history is a tapestry of stories, from the ancient times of the Phoenicians and Romans to the medieval era of the Knights of St. John. The National Library of Malta is proud to present this collection of Maltese verses, celebrating the island's rich cultural heritage and the enduring spirit of its people.

This collection of Maltese verses, spanning from the 16th to the 19th century, offers a unique perspective on the island's history, culture, and the lives of its inhabitants. The verses are a testament to the resilience and creativity of the Maltese people, who have overcome numerous challenges throughout their history.

The book is a valuable resource for scholars, researchers, and anyone interested in Maltese history and culture. It provides a glimpse into the lives of the Maltese people and the values that have shaped their identity over the centuries.

For more information on this collection, please visit our website at [www.maltalibrary.gov.mt](http://www.maltalibrary.gov.mt).



# 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** to a total of **12 elderly homes and five day-care centres**. Over the past years, attendance at reading sessions by the elderly rose substantially with the introduction of live online reading sessions during the pandemic. Throughout 2023, these online streams were temporarily suspended as more in-person and outdoor activities were re-introduced by the respective homes. 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, in 2023, Malta Libraries set up another library in the **Casa San Paolo** elderly home which was inaugurated in October. We now have eight 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. Moreover, interested residents are also trained and encouraged to involve themselves in the administration of said libraries so that they remain active within their community by devoting their time to something they love. These libraries are continuously furnished with brand-new books purchased by Malta Libraries as well as ad hoc donations from private and public sources.



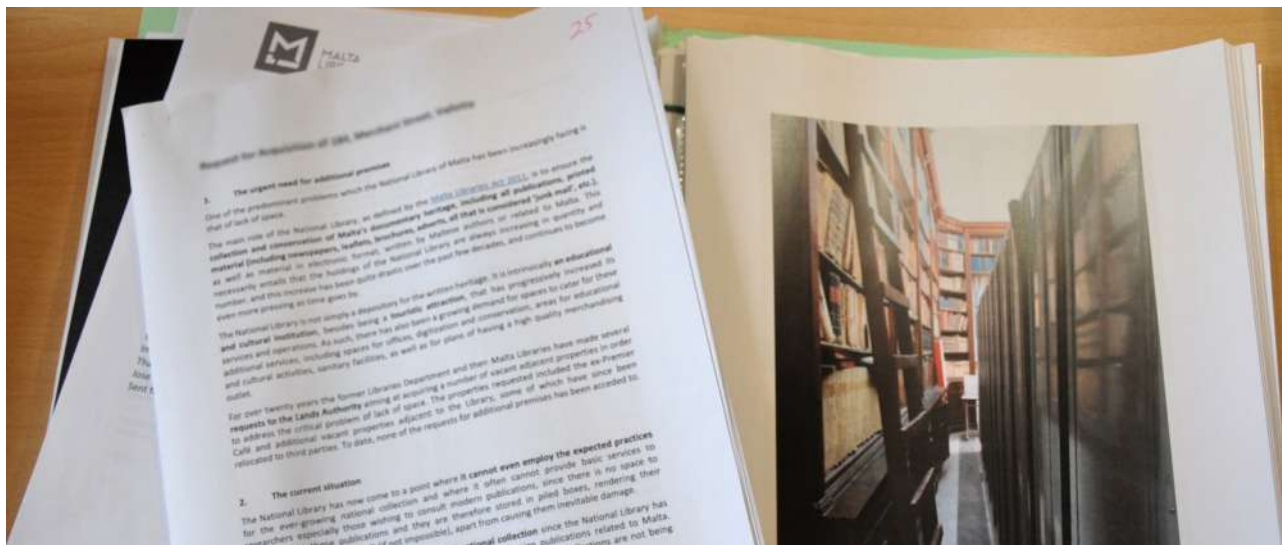
# CURATORIAL AFFAIRS UNIT

During the year under review, the Curatorial Affairs Unit continued working on ongoing projects and embraced new initiatives aligned with its mission to safeguard, preserve, and disseminate the heritage assets entrusted to the care of Malta Libraries. The Unit predominantly directed its efforts toward the National Library building as a significant heritage monument in itself as well as the historical collections housed within it. In 2023, the Unit's undertakings reached beyond purely curatorial tasks, encompassing a number of activities that are, nonetheless, linked to the safeguarding of the building and its holdings, while trying to enhance the environment for staff members, researchers and visitors alike.

## NATIONAL LIBRARY PREMISES

The Unit continued to work in accordance with the objectives outlined in the “NLM Status Report – PROJECT REQUISITE.” This document, initially presented to the Ministry for National Heritage, the Arts, and Local Government in 2020 and subsequently revised in May 2022, delineates a favourable solution to address issues hindering the proper functioning and appreciation of the National Library and its collections.

One of the major issues tackled in the Project Requisite is the problem of insufficient space at the National Library, which is currently impeding its proper functioning. The institution urgently requires additional premises, not only to accommodate its continuously expanding collection but also to offer space for offices, modern work areas, and other essential facilities. Specifically, in 2023, efforts were concentrated on acquiring significantly spacious premises that both abut and extend over the Library's existing building. A comprehensive report was prepared to consolidate the entity's case for acquiring this property.





In collaboration with the Restoration Directorate, works continued on a project for the restoration of the Library's roof, which includes the installation of new waterproofing membrane and the restoration of all parapet walls. The works involved consultations with the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, as well as the revision of the necessary tender documents.



A significant project, namely that of the lift installation at the Library premises, regrettably continued to face prolonged challenges. As the final stages for installing the mechanical lift were underway, additional complications arose, particularly at basement level, where issues with a faulty drainage system were identified. The repair of this system further extended the project's deadline.

Plans are underway for the renovation of smaller premises in Old Theatre Street acquired by Malta Libraries for the purpose of facilitating step-free access through the installation of the above-mentioned lift. Numerous site visits and discussions have taken place concerning the refurbishment and intended utilisation of these premises. Initially intended to serve as a local Public Library, the need for an extended ramp to facilitate wheelchair access made this unfeasible. Consequently, a re-evaluation process was initiated to determine the most effective utilisation and management of these premises.



# RISK ASSESSMENT REPORT

In 2023, the Curatorial Unit was responsible for reviewing a Risk Assessment Report drawn up in November 2019. The goal was to assess which issues had been addressed, identify any outstanding concerns, and determine if revisions were necessary. In addition to noting minor repair works that remained pending, the Unit prepared a detailed and comprehensive report addressing the removal of unnecessary clutter and the physical organisation of items that were not properly stored. The objective of implementing the recommendations outlined in this report is to improve the visual aesthetics and ensure health and safety measures within the premises.



# HEALTH AND SAFETY

In addition to reviewing the Risk Assessment Report, the Unit was also tasked with checking whether Health and Safety requirements at the National Library were up to date. This responsibility encompassed not only inspecting and reporting on material features and physical risks but also organising training courses for staff members in various sectors related to Health and Safety. The courses included Fire Safety, First Aid and Safety at Work, and Manual Handling and Lifting. The Unit was also responsible for coordinating with the identified contractor to develop a Fire Evacuation Plan for the National Library.



A number of hazardous physical features were also identified and reported. Necessary means for their urgent repair were initiated in collaboration with the architect from the Restoration Directorate appointed for required works at the National Library.

# PRESERVATION POLICY FOR THE NATIONAL LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

In the implementation of the “Policy for Preservation and Collections Care” at the National Library, the focus remained the same as in recent years, namely on preventive conservation. Efforts have been concentrated on maintaining the condition and stability of library material that is in a good state, while also working to avoid further deterioration of that which is not. This is being made primarily through continuous fumigation, book cleaning and the use of surrogates instead of original material.

Discussions are ongoing regarding additional means of safeguarding Library material, such as the filtering of natural light, and the evaluation of the pros and cons of allowing airflow into the Library. Environmental monitoring remains a priority on the agenda.

The Preservation Policy extends not only to old library material but also to new books joining the National Library collection. Measures for handling and treating these new acquisitions have also been addressed. For instance, due to space limitations, several new books are kept in boxes as there is no available shelving space. It is considered important to control the way these books are stored in such boxes, ensuring they are treated in the best way possible.

Members of staff from the Curatorial Unit and the Conservation Unit respectively, participated in a course titled “Identification of Insect Pests in Collections”, organised by International Academic Projects, London.



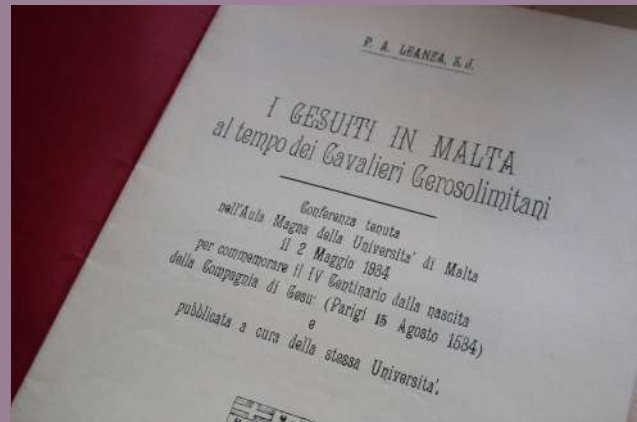
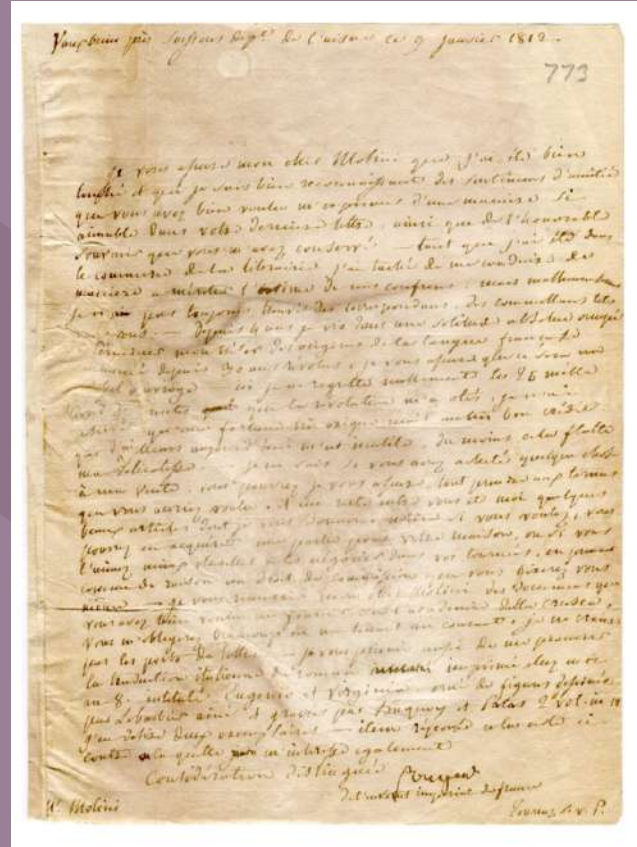
## RESTORATION OF PAINTINGS

In 2023, the Curatorial Unit was involved in discussions between Malta Libraries and Heritage Malta regarding the restoration of a number of paintings situated in the Reading Room. These artworks feature portraits of past librarians and benefactors. A consensus was reached to entrust the restoration process to Heritage Malta's Conservation Division, with a plan to treat two paintings annually.



## 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 further enrich the Library's collections. These included books, maps, engravings, old prints and photographs, which were acquired through international auctions or direct purchase.



# BIBLIOTHECA HISTORY RESEARCH PROJECT

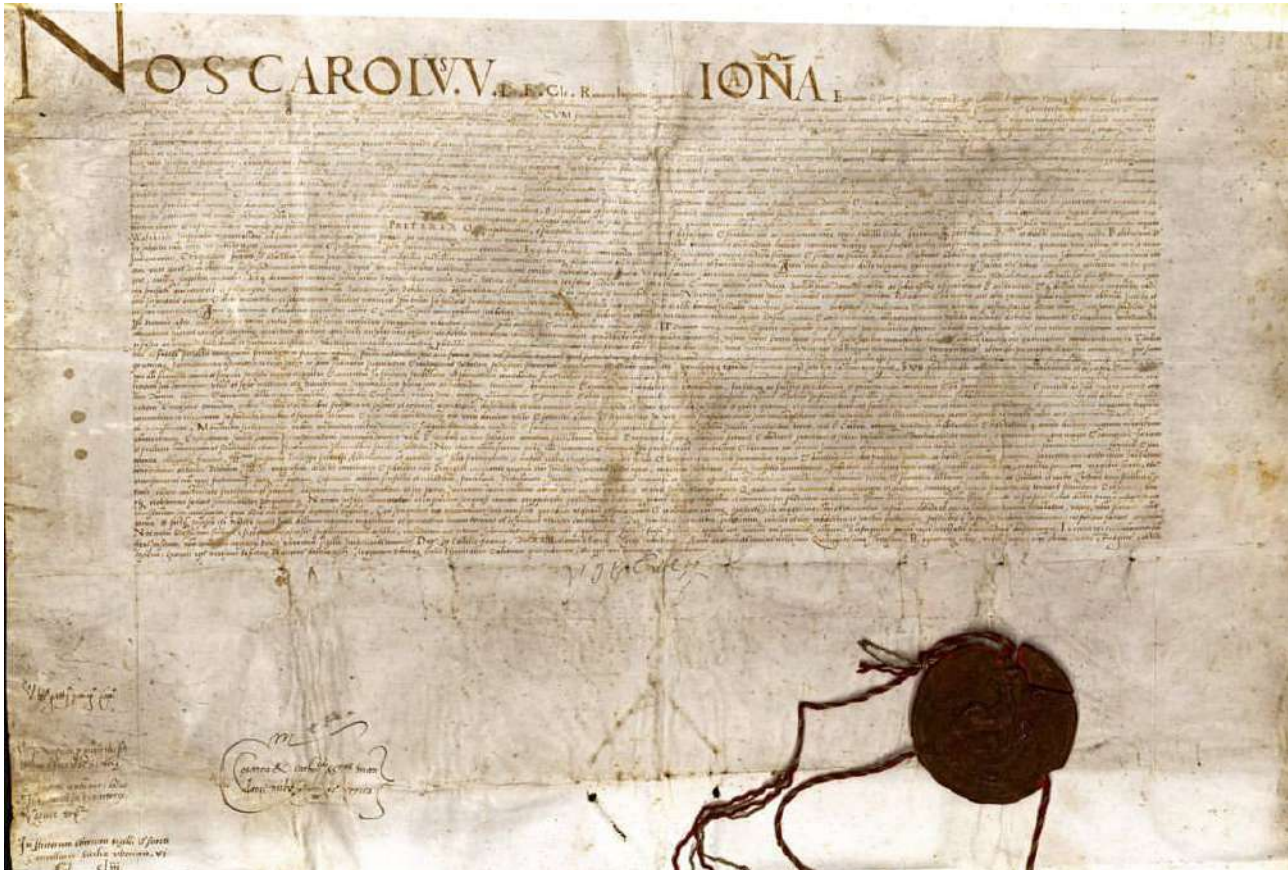
The aim of this ongoing Project is to conduct an extensive and in-depth study relating to the history of the National Library building and its use. During the year under review, research predominantly relying on primary archival sources continued, mostly focusing on material housed at the National Library itself. In addition, a collection of secondary sources continued to be compiled and analysed.





# OUTREACH AND COLLABORATION

In 2023, the Curatorial Unit actively participated in a collaborative project with the Spanish Embassy in Malta. The project focuses on one of the most important documents housed at the National Library – 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 initiative includes the thorough examination, preservation, and exhibition of this significant document, aiming to raise awareness of its historical value, one that was pivotal in shaping the destiny of the Maltese Islands.



Together with the Deputy Librarian, the coordination of the National Library’s Public Lectures Series for 2022-2023, entitled “Created to Inspire: 500 Years of Artistic Splendour in Malta” was continued, while also embarking on the coordination of the 2023-2024 Lecture Series: “Knowledge in the Making: Towards an Intellectual History of Early Modern Malta”. The latter are being produced in collaboration with the Department of Philosophy at the University of Malta and are coordinated by

Maroma Camilleri, Mevrick Spiteri and Jean-Paul De Lucca. Additionally, the proceedings of the Public Lecture Series of 2020-2021 were published in 2023 in a book titled *Malta's Road to Autonomy: 100 Years on from the 1921 Self-Government*, edited by Maroma Camilleri and Mevrick Spiteri.



The Curatorial Unit dedicated a significant amount of time throughout the year to supporting Ms Maroma Camilleri, curator of the exhibition titled "In the Footsteps of the Hospitallers: 900 Years of Chivalry, Faith, and Charity." This contribution involved assistance in organising the exhibition, preparing the setup, and contributing to the production of the catalogue. This task was perhaps the most time-consuming, demanding several months of continuous effort.



THE VEX. BARJFF. F.  
EDWARD CHITTY, G.  
OF HOME (1949-202)



### THE ORDER'S FLEET

Thru multiple operations during the 16th and 17th centuries, the Order of St John sought to build a strong naval force. However, it was in Malta that the Order's fleet became most prominent and achieved its greatest achievements. Although not particularly extensive, the fleet was crucial with effective tactics against Islamic naval powers. The fleet had three main bases: the Mediterranean, the Adriatic and the Atlantic.

In Malta, the Order had a number of ships, including galleys and other vessels. The galleys were used for both war and transport. The fleet also included a number of smaller vessels, such as the Order's fleet of galleys, which were used for transport and other purposes. The fleet was commanded by the Grand Master, who was assisted by the Order's fleet commander, the Grand Admiral.

Malta benefited greatly from the presence of the Order's fleet, gaining an identity that was very important to the island. The fleet also played a role in the development of the island's economy, particularly in the shipping industry.

### IL-FLOTTA TAL-ORDNI

Malta's maritime history is a story of a long and rich tradition. It is a story of a fleet that was built over centuries, and which played a crucial role in the island's history. The fleet was used for both war and transport, and it was a symbol of the Order's power and influence.

The fleet was built over centuries, and it was a symbol of the Order's power and influence. It was used for both war and transport, and it was a symbol of the Order's power and influence.

Malta's maritime history is a story of a long and rich tradition. It is a story of a fleet that was built over centuries, and which played a crucial role in the island's history. The fleet was used for both war and transport, and it was a symbol of the Order's power and influence.



**Ship: Galley of Don Juan**  
 Don Juan de Austria  
 1571-1572

**Ship: Galley of Don Juan**  
 Don Juan de Austria  
 1571-1572

**Ship: Galley of Don Juan**  
 Don Juan de Austria  
 1571-1572

### THE FORTIFICATIONS

Although many medieval fortifications already existed, the Order of St John saw the need to build a new and more advanced system of fortifications. The Order's fortifications were built over centuries, and they were a symbol of the Order's power and influence.

The fortifications were built over centuries, and they were a symbol of the Order's power and influence. They were used for both war and transport, and they were a symbol of the Order's power and influence.

Malta's fortifications are a testament to the Order's military prowess. They were built over centuries, and they were a symbol of the Order's power and influence.

### IS-SWAR

Malta's fortifications are a testament to the Order's military prowess. They were built over centuries, and they were a symbol of the Order's power and influence.

The fortifications were built over centuries, and they were a symbol of the Order's power and influence. They were used for both war and transport, and they were a symbol of the Order's power and influence.

Malta's fortifications are a testament to the Order's military prowess. They were built over centuries, and they were a symbol of the Order's power and influence.



**Fortification: St. John's Bastion**  
 St. John's Bastion  
 1571-1572

**Fortification: St. James' Bastion**  
 St. James' Bastion  
 1571-1572

**Fortification: St. George's Bastion**  
 St. George's Bastion  
 1571-1572

### ARTISTIC TREASURES & CULTURAL HERITAGE

The Order of St John has a rich artistic and cultural heritage. This heritage is reflected in the Order's buildings, its art, and its music. The Order's artistic treasures are a testament to the Order's power and influence.

The Order's artistic treasures are a testament to the Order's power and influence. They are a symbol of the Order's power and influence, and they are a source of pride for the Order.

Malta's artistic heritage is a testament to the Order's power and influence. It is a symbol of the Order's power and influence, and it is a source of pride for the Order.

### TEZORI ARTISTICI U WIRT KULTURALI

Malta's artistic heritage is a testament to the Order's power and influence. It is a symbol of the Order's power and influence, and it is a source of pride for the Order.

The Order's artistic treasures are a testament to the Order's power and influence. They are a symbol of the Order's power and influence, and they are a source of pride for the Order.

Malta's artistic heritage is a testament to the Order's power and influence. It is a symbol of the Order's power and influence, and it is a source of pride for the Order.



**The Holy Communion of St. John's Cathedral**  
 St. John's Cathedral  
 1571-1572

**The Holy Communion of St. John's Cathedral**  
 St. John's Cathedral  
 1571-1572

### THE ORDER & MUSIC

The Order of St John has a rich musical heritage. This heritage is reflected in the Order's music, its instruments, and its performances. The Order's musical heritage is a testament to the Order's power and influence.

The Order's musical heritage is a testament to the Order's power and influence. It is a symbol of the Order's power and influence, and it is a source of pride for the Order.

Malta's musical heritage is a testament to the Order's power and influence. It is a symbol of the Order's power and influence, and it is a source of pride for the Order.

### L-ORDNI U L-MUZIKA

Malta's musical heritage is a testament to the Order's power and influence. It is a symbol of the Order's power and influence, and it is a source of pride for the Order.

The Order's musical heritage is a testament to the Order's power and influence. It is a symbol of the Order's power and influence, and it is a source of pride for the Order.

Malta's musical heritage is a testament to the Order's power and influence. It is a symbol of the Order's power and influence, and it is a source of pride for the Order.



**Instrument: Lute**  
 Lute  
 1571-1572

**Instrument: Harpsichord**  
 Harpsichord  
 1571-1572

**Instrument: Keyboard**  
 Keyboard  
 1571-1572

In 2023, the Curatorial Unit was involved in other collaborative initiatives. It prepared a number of texts for television features about the National Library and its collections and also provided an extensive bibliography for a publication about the history of the Public Service by the Office of the Prime Minister. The Unit was also responsible for supplying the requested information regarding the National Library for the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage's publication of the State of the Heritage Report covering the years 2018-2022.

# REPORT AND FINAN- CIAL STATE- MENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022  
EXCERPTS FROM THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS

# STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023 (UNAUDITED)

| ACCOUNT  | ACTUAL           |
|--|------------------|
| <b>Income</b>  |                  |
| Government Subvention for Recurrent Expenditure      | 3,750,000        |
| Income generated from own operations                 | 40,538           |
| Other contributions from other public administration | 105,595          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>3,896,133</b> |
| <b>Other Income</b>                                  |                  |
| <b>Other Grants Received</b>                         | <b>0</b>         |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                                   |                  |
| 50100 (SALARIES)                                     | 2,757,256        |
| 60100 (UTILITIES)                                    | 49,212           |
| 60200 (MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES)                       | 108,531          |
| 60300 (REPAIR AND UPKEEP)                            | 52,409           |
| 60400 (RENTS)  | 44,975           |
| 60600 (OFFICE SERVICES)                              | 37,959           |
| 60700 (TRANSPORT)                                    | 17,826           |
| 60800 (TRAVEL)                                       | 347              |
| 60900 (INFORMATION SERVICES)                         | 4,175            |
| 61000 (CONTRACTUAL SERVICES)                         | 262,593          |
| 61100 (PROFESSIONAL SERVICES)                        | 439,151          |
| 61200 (TRAINING)                                     | 3,190            |
| 61300 (HOSPITALITY)                                  | 5,009            |
| 61400 (INCIDENTAL EXPENSES)                          | 2,450            |
| Depreciation   | 135,000          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>3,920,083</b> |
| <b>(Deficit)/Surplus for the period</b>              | <b>(23,950)</b>  |

# MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

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 2022, 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 2022, 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: 31st October 2023**

# INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

|  | NOTES    | 2022<br>€          | 2021<br>€   |
|--|----------|--------------------|-------------|
| <b>Revenue</b>                               | <b>3</b> | <b>3,731,385</b>   | 3,489,557   |
| Cost of sales                                |          | -                  | -           |
| <b>Net Revenue</b>                           |          | <b>3,731,385</b>   | 3,489,557   |
| Administrative expenses                      |          | <b>(3,882,895)</b> | (3,599,638) |
| Other operating income                       | <b>4</b> | <b>143,043</b>     | 137,779     |
| <b>Operating surplus/((defecit)/surplus)</b> |          | <b>(8,467)</b>     | 27,698      |
| <b>Accumulated (loss) brought forward</b>    |          | <b>(32,202)</b>    | (59,900)    |
| Accumulated (loss) carried forward           |          | <b>(40,669)</b>    | (32,202)    |

# BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 2022

|                                     | NOTES | 2022<br>€        | 2021<br>€      |
|-------------------------------------|-------|------------------|----------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                       |       |                  |                |
| <b>Non-current assets</b>           |       |                  |                |
| Heritage assets                     | 7     | 147,010          | 69,996         |
| Property, plant and equipment       | 8     | 707,877          | 682,016        |
|                                     |       | <b>854,887</b>   | <b>752,012</b> |
| <b>Current assets</b>               |       |                  |                |
| Trade and other receivables         | 9     | 28,127           | 56,781         |
| Cash and bank balances              |       | 338,948          | 170,980        |
|                                     |       | <b>367,075</b>   | <b>227,761</b> |
| <b>Total assets</b>                 |       | <b>1,221,962</b> | <b>979,773</b> |
| <b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>       |       |                  |                |
| <b>Reserves</b>                     |       |                  |                |
| Capital expenditure fund            |       | 666,357          | 508,881        |
| Accumulated fund                    |       | (40,669)         | (32,202)       |
| <b>Total equity</b>                 |       | <b>625,688</b>   | <b>476,679</b> |
| <b>Non-current liabilities</b>      |       |                  |                |
| Deferred income                     |       | 240,683          | 207,417        |
| <b>Current liabilities</b>          |       |                  |                |
| Borrowings                          | 10    | -                | 6,602          |
| Trade and other payables            | 11    | 355,591          | 289,075        |
|                                     |       | <b>355,591</b>   | <b>295,677</b> |
| <b>Total equity and liabilities</b> |       | <b>1,221,962</b> | <b>979,773</b> |

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 31st October 2023 and signed on its behalf by: Cheryl Falzon (National Librarian and CEO) and Joanne Sciberras (Director Library Operations).





ES



MALTA  
LIBRARIES

