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Book loans from public libraries amounted to 767,548 last year, down by 9.5 per cent from 2012.

Statistics on Libraries: 2013

Last year, the total number of book acquisitions by public libraries dropped by 27.8 per cent to 26,968 compared to the previous year (Chart 1). Book donations declined but accounted for 64.4 per cent of library acquisitions (Table 1). However, set criteria were established whereby only books that were new or in good condition were accepted.

Book purchases also went down due to a restructuring exercise in a number of libraries and the focusing of financial resources on more non-fiction and reference material, which cost more than commercial fiction books.

New memberships in public libraries went down over 2012 levels, to 2,058. Just over 90 per cent of these memberships were recorded in Malta. Moreover, two-thirds were registered as junior members, as indicated in Table 2. In 2013, book loans reached 767,548, a decrease of 9.5 per cent over the previous year, in part due to technological developments, such as e-reading. The Southern Harbour District libraries had the highest share of book loans, with 39.1 per cent of the total. These were followed by loans from public libraries located within the Northern Harbour District, which amounted to 136,818, or 17.8 per cent of the total (Table 3).

An overall increase of 3.6 per cent was reported in private consumption on books, newspapers and periodicals when compared to 2012 levels. Moreover, national accounts data indicated a share of slightly over 1 per cent of total private consumption expenditure on printed material, of which almost 60 per cent was spent on books (Table 6).

Trade Statistics showed that €15.3 million worth of printed books and periodicals were imported last year, an increase of 6.1 per cent over 2012. Nearly 70 per cent of these imports constituted printed book material, as shown in Table 4. On the other hand, the total value of exports of printed material and periodicals increased by 50.7 per cent when compared to 2012 levels, reaching €5.9 million ■

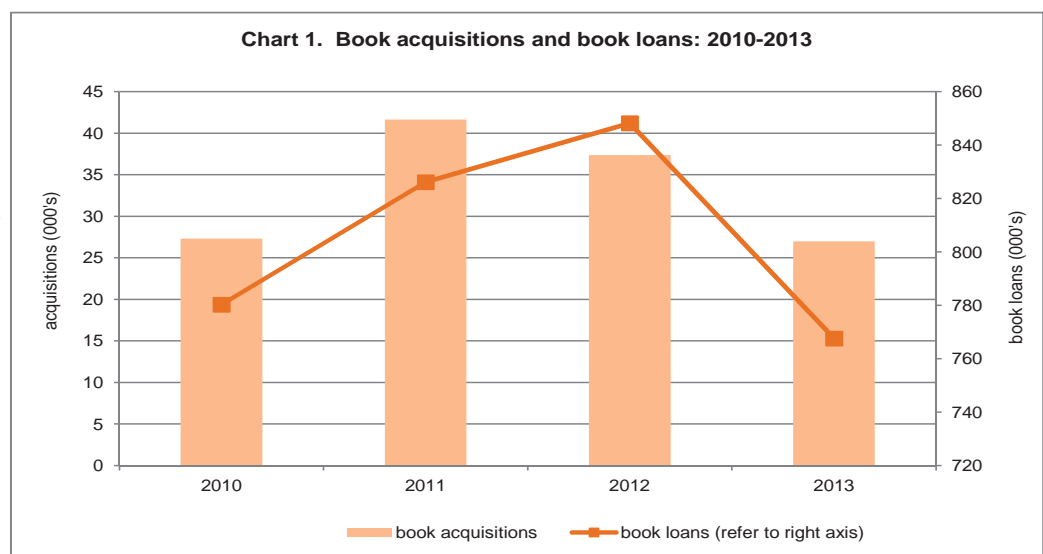
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Table 1. Public libraries at a glance: 2012-2013

	2012	2013
Book acquisitions	37,358	26,968
<i>of which:</i>		
Book purchases	9,850	9,591
Book donations	27,508	17,377
New library members	5,456	5,534
<i>of which:</i>		
Malta	4,711	5,052
Gozo	745	482
Book loans	848,167	767,548
<i>of which:</i>		
Central Public Library	269,328	203,843
Regional libraries	200,331	185,036
Branch libraries - Malta	272,286	276,547
Gozo Lending Library	36,563	28,764
Branch libraries - Gozo	69,659	73,358

Source: Central Public Library.

Table 2. New memberships in public libraries: 2012-2013

Type of member	2012			2013		
	Number of members			Number of members		
	Malta	Gozo	Total	Malta	Gozo	Total
Total Adult - over 17	1,943	326	2,269	1,861	197	2,058
Adult - Maltese citizens	1,392	274	1,666	1,339	140	1,479
Adult - Maltese citizens with additional Junior lending rights	487	40	527	449	40	489
Adult - non-Maltese citizenship*	59	9	68	69	2	71
Adult - foreign visitor*	5	3	8	4	15	19
Total Junior - under 18	2,756	419	3,175	3,178	284	3,462
Junior - under 12	2,533	392	2,925	2,960	280	3,240
Junior - under 18	208	16	224	192	4	196
Junior - under 18 with additional Adult lending rights**	7	-	7	6	-	6
Junior - under 12 without Maltese citizenship*	3	7	10	18	-	18
Junior - under 18 without Maltese citizenship*	2	-	2	2	-	2
Junior Foreign visitor*	3	4	7	-	-	-
Total Other	12	-	12	13	1	14
Special Needs Services / Staff members	12	-	12	13	1	14
Total	4,711	745	5,456	5,052	482	5,534

*Require a Maltese citizen guarantee

**Require a written permit from guardians

Source: Central Public Library.

Table 3. Total book loans by locality of library: 2012-2013 ...

District and locality	2012		2013		% change
	Number	% total	Number	% total	
MALTA	848,167	100.0	767,548	100.0	-9.5
Malta	741,945	87.5	665,426	86.7	-10.3
Gozo and Comino	106,222	12.5	102,122	13.3	-3.9
Southern Harbour District	377,898	44.6	299,806	39.1	-20.7
Cospicua	3,943	0.5	3,384	0.4	-14.2
Fgura	13,833	1.6	12,844	1.7	-7.1
Floriana	269,328	31.8	203,843	26.6	-24.3
Kalkara	4,510	0.5	5,056	0.7	12.1
Ħal Luqa	30,150	3.6	19,104	2.5	-36.6
Paola	30,221	3.6	28,641	3.7	-5.2
Santa Luċġja	1,156	0.1	2,928	0.4	153.3
Senglea	910	0.1	1,220	0.2	34.1
Ħal Tarxien	2,037	0.2	2,540	0.3	24.7
Valletta	2,275	0.3	1,165	0.2	-48.8
Vittoriosa	4,591	0.5	4,522	0.6	-1.5
Ħaż-Żabbar	14,944	1.8	14,559	1.9	-2.6
Northern Harbour District	144,447	17.0	136,818	17.8	-5.3
Birkirkara	63,354	7.5	49,543	6.5	-21.8
Gżira	6,508	0.8	7,308	1.0	12.3
Ħamrun	7,131	0.8	6,850	0.9	-3.9
Msida	9,620	1.1	7,061	0.9	-26.6
Pembroke	3,450	0.4	4,297	0.6	24.6
Ħal Qormi	35,072	4.1	45,978	6.0	31.1
St Julian's*	1,316	0.2	-	-	-
San Ġwann	9,156	1.1	7,664	1.0	-16.3
Tas-Sliema	8,840	1.0	8,117	1.1	-8.2
South Eastern District	108,079	12.7	109,696	14.3	1.5
Birżebbuġa	3,968	0.5	5,688	0.7	43.3
Ħal Għaxaq	7,063	0.8	6,094	0.8	-13.7
Gudja	11,556	1.4	12,138	1.6	5.0
Ħal Kirkop	7,613	0.9	9,105	1.2	19.6
Marsaskala	17,081	2.0	17,693	2.3	3.6
Marsaxlokk	19,047	2.2	18,927	2.5	-0.6
Mqabba	5,047	0.6	3,075	0.4	-39.1
Qrendi	7,683	0.9	7,420	1.0	-3.4
Ħal Safi	3,919	0.5	6,719	0.9	71.4
Żejtun	15,964	1.9	14,157	1.8	-11.3
Żurrieq	9,138	1.1	8,680	1.1	-5.0

...Table 3. Total book loans by locality of library: 2012-2013

District and Locality	2012		2013		% change
	Number	% total	Number	% total	
Western District	43,572	5.1	51,038	6.6	17.1
Rabat	13,059	1.5	13,408	1.7	2.7
Ħad-Dingli	4,448	0.5	4,800	0.6	7.9
Ħ'Attard	15,219	1.8	16,052	2.1	5.5
Siġġiewi	7,937	0.9	6,993	0.9	-11.9
Ħaż-Żebbuġ	2,909	0.3	9,785	1.3	236.4
Northern District	67,949	8.0	68,068	8.9	0.2
Ħal Gharghur	5,908	0.7	5,508	0.7	-6.8
Mellieħa	8,856	1.0	9,092	1.2	2.7
Mġarr	4,479	0.5	4,060	0.5	-9.4
Mosta	28,682	3.4	28,244	3.7	-1.5
Naxxar	10,572	1.2	11,902	1.6	12.6
St Paul's Bay	9,452	1.1	9,262	1.2	-2.0
Gozo and Comino	106,222	12.5	102,122	13.3	-3.9
Għajnsielem	3,051	0.4	3,573	0.5	17.1
Għarb	4,559	0.5	4,346	0.6	-4.7
Għasri	1,385	0.2	1,046	0.1	-24.5
Ta' Kerċem	1,297	0.2	1,444	0.2	11.3
Nadur	25,109	3.0	26,903	3.5	7.1
Qala	5,812	0.7	6,384	0.8	9.8
Victoria	36,563	4.3	28,764	3.7	-21.3
San Lawrenz	4,356	0.5	4,323	0.6	-0.8
Ta' Sannat	529	0.1	1,606	0.2	203.6
Xagħra	13,350	1.6	11,925	1.6	-10.7
Xewkija	5,448	0.6	7,279	0.9	33.6
Żebbuġ	4,763	0.6	4,529	0.6	-4.9

* St Julian's public library was closed during 2013
Source: Central Public Library.

Table 4. Imports and exports of printed book material and periodicals: 2010-2013

	2010	2011	2012	2013
	€000			
Imports	12,920	14,630	14,446	15,324
Printed book material	7,009	7,761	9,866	10,607
Printed periodicals	5,911	6,869	4,580	4,717
Exports	5,445	4,148	3,936	5,930
Printed book material	5,282	4,021	3,676	5,555
Printed periodicals	163	127	260	375

Note: Provisional data, subject to revisions.

Source: International Trade and Transport Statistics, NSO.

Table 5. Books and periodicals received at the National Library of Malta under legal deposit: 2010-2013

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total	1,059	1,006	1,171	1,023
Books	564	483	604	463
Periodicals	495	523	567	560

Source: National Library.

Table 6. Private final consumption expenditure in the domestic market: 2010-2013

	2010	2011	2012	2013
	€000			
Total private final consumption expenditure	4,374,899	4,624,440	4,755,219	4,925,844
<i>of which:</i>				
Total	48,644	48,854	54,525	49,796
Books	26,734	26,155	30,669	29,489
Newspapers and periodicals	16,653	17,352	17,799	15,932
Miscellaneous printed matter	5,257	5,347	6,057	4,375
% spent on printed material	1.11	1.06	1.15	1.01

Note: Provisional data, subject to revisions.

Source: National Accounts, NSO.

Methodological notes

1. This news release makes reference to statistics from various sources quoted after each table.
2. With reference to Table 2, a broader definition of new membership categories is provided below:

Adult population consists of:

- Maltese citizens aged 17 and over;
- Maltese citizens aged 17 and over, with additional junior lending rights;
- Non-Maltese citizens aged 17 and over;
- Persons aged 17 and over, requiring a Maltese citizen guarantee.

Junior population consists of:

- Maltese citizens under 12 years of age;
- Maltese citizens under 18 years of age;
- Maltese citizens under 18 years of age with additional adult lending rights and require a written permit from guardians;
- Non-Maltese citizens under 12 years of age who require a Maltese citizen guarantee;
- Non-Maltese citizens under 18 years of age who require a Maltese citizen guarantee.

3. Miscellaneous printed matter:

- includes:

catalogues and advertising material;
posters, plain or picture postcards, calendars;
greeting cards and visiting cards, announcement and message cards;
maps and globes.

- excludes:

pre-franked postcards and aerogrammes;
stamp albums.