

Last year new public library members and book loans both declined by over 17 per cent.

Statistics on Libraries: 2014

Data provided by the Central Public Library showed that last year, the total number of book acquisitions by public libraries reached 29,916, an increase of 10.9 per cent over 2013 (Table 1). Donations continued to be the major source of acquisitions at 62.4 per cent.

New public library members declined by 17.5 per cent to 4,569. This was brought about by drops in both the adult and junior categories, of 10.2 and 21.5 per cent respectively (Table 2).

In 2014, book loans declined by 17.3 per cent over the preceding year. The Central Public Library in Floriana had the highest share of book loans at 19.1 per cent. Year-on-year, however, the Central Public Library has seen a drop of 40.5 per cent in the number of loans. At a locality level Birkirkara, which has the largest population and is one of seven regional libraries, accounted for the second largest share of loans (9.2 per cent). In Gozo, the Nadur branch library overtook the Central Public Library in Victoria in the number of loans (31.0 per cent against 29.2 per cent) (Table 3).

In 2014, the number of publications received by the National Library of Malta under legal deposit amounted to 963, down by 5.9 per cent over 2013 (Table 4).

Trade data show that €15.0 million worth of printed books and periodicals were imported in 2014, 2.6 per cent less than the preceding year. The total value of exports of printed books and periodicals went up by 11.3 per cent to €6.6 million (Table 5).

Private consumers spent €49.6 million on printed materials last year, just over 2 per cent less than 2013. A breakdown reveals that expenditure on books decreased by 4.1 per cent and by 1.9 per cent on newspapers and periodicals. Conversely, it increased by 11.0 per cent on miscellaneous printed matter including cards, catalogues and calendars (Table 6) ■

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**Unit C1: Living Conditions
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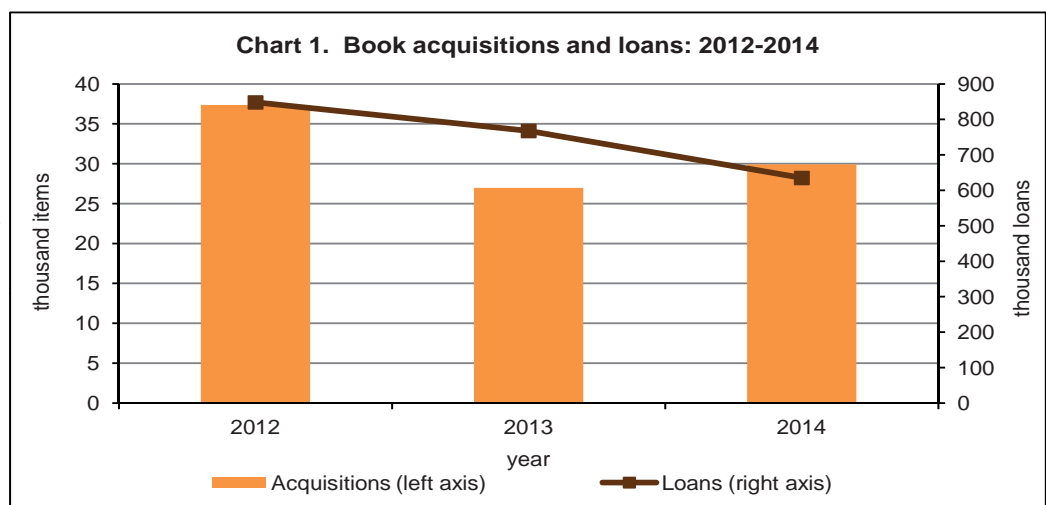
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Table 1. Public libraries at a glance: 2012-2014

	2012	2013	2014
Book acquisitions	37,358	26,968	29,916
<i>of which:</i>			
Book purchases	9,850	9,591	11,254
Book donations	27,508	17,377	18,662
New library members	5,456	5,534	4,569
Book loans	848,167	767,548	635,008
<i>of which:</i>			
Central Public Library	269,328	203,843	121,328
Regional libraries	200,331	185,036	158,915
Branch libraries - Malta	272,286	276,547	254,582
Gozo Lending Library	36,563	28,764	29,280
Branch libraries - Gozo	69,659	73,358	70,903

Source: Central Public Library.

Table 2. New public library membership: 2012-2014

Type of member	2012	2013	2014
	Number of members		
	Total		
Total - 18 and over	2,269	2,058	1,848
Adults	1,666	1,479	1,780
Adults with additional junior lending rights ¹	527	489	N/A
Adults without Maltese citizenship ²	68	71	51
Adult foreign visitors ²	8	19	17
Total Junior - Under 18	3,175	3,463	2,720
Juniors - 0-13 years	2,925	3,240	2,562
Juniors - 14-17 years	224	196	118
Juniors - 17 years and under with additional adult lending rights ³	7	6	3
Juniors - 0-13 years without Maltese citizenship ²	10	18	29
Juniors - 14-17 years without Maltese citizenship ²	2	2	3
Junior Foreign visitors ²	7	-	5
Total - Other	12	14	1
Staff members	12	14	1
Total	5,456	5,535	4,569

¹ From 2014 all adults have additional Junior lending rights

² Require a Maltese citizen guarantor

³ Require a written permit from a parent or guardian

N/A - not applicable

Source: Central Public Library.

Table 3. Total book loans by locality of library: 2012-2014 ...

District and locality	2012	2013	2014
MALTA	848,167	767,548	635,008
Malta	741,945	665,426	534,825
Gozo and Comino	106,222	102,122	100,183
Southern Harbour	377,898	299,806	197,688
Cospicua	3,943	3,384	2,914
Fgura	13,833	12,844	10,946
Floriana	269,328	203,843	121,328
Kalkara	4,510	5,056	3,977
Ħal Luqa	30,150	19,104	19,274
Paola	30,221	28,641	16,814
Santa Luċija	1,156	2,928	4,100
Senglea	910	1,220	860
Ħal Tarxien	2,037	2,540	1,579
Valletta	2,275	1,165	1,068
Vittoriosa	4,591	4,522	3,116
Ħaż-Żabbar	14,944	14,559	11,712
Northern Harbour	144,447	136,818	123,999
Birkirkara	63,354	49,543	58,517
Gżira	6,508	7,308	6,124
Ħamrun	7,131	6,850	5,892
Msida	9,620	7,061	9,724
Pembroke	3,450	4,297	4,069
Ħal Qormi	35,072	45,978	25,127
St Julian's*	1,316	-	-
San Ġwann	9,156	7,664	7,418
Tas-Sliema	8,840	8,117	7,128
South Eastern	108,079	109,696	105,001
Birżebbuġa	3,968	5,688	5,993
Ħal Għaxaq	7,063	6,094	5,930
Gudja	11,556	12,138	12,376
Ħal Kirkop	7,613	9,105	7,302
Marsaskala	17,081	17,693	14,639
Marsaxlokk	19,047	18,927	18,089
Mqabba	5,047	3,075	4,063
Qrendi	7,683	7,420	7,606
Ħal Safi	3,919	6,719	4,611
Żejtun	15,964	14,157	14,548
Żurrieq	9,138	8,680	9,844

... Table 3. Total book loans by locality of library: 2012-2014

District and Locality	2012	2013	2014
Western	43,572	51,038	46,445
Rabat	13,059	13,408	11,258
Ħad-Dingli	4,448	4,800	4,708
Ħ'Attard	15,219	16,052	15,180
Siġġiewi	7,937	6,993	5,489
Ħaż-Żebbuġ	2,909	9,785	9,810
Northern	67,949	68,068	61,692
Ħal Gharghur	5,908	5,508	5,383
Mellieħa	8,856	9,092	8,923
Mġarr	4,479	4,060	3,945
Mosta	28,682	28,244	24,809
Naxxar	10,572	11,902	10,987
St Paul's Bay	9,452	9,262	7,645
Gozo and Comino	106,222	102,122	100,183
Għajnsielem	3,051	3,573	2,926
Għarb	4,559	4,346	3,370
Għasri	1,385	1,046	1,360
Ta' Kerċem	1,297	1,444	1,140
Nadur	25,109	26,903	31,042
Qala	5,812	6,384	4,931
Victoria	36,563	28,764	29,280
San Lawrenz	4,356	4,323	3,106
Ta' Sannat	529	1,606	1,557
Xagħra	13,350	11,925	10,449
Xewkija	5,448	7,279	5,676
Żebbuġ	4,763	4,529	5,346

* St Julian's Public Library was closed in 2013 and 2014
Source: Central Public Library.

Table 4. Books and periodicals received at the National Library of Malta under legal deposit: 2012-2014

	2012	2013	2014
Total	1,171	1,023	963
Books	604	463	402
Periodicals	567	560	561

Source: National Library of Malta.

Table 5. Imports and exports of printed book material and periodicals in terms of value: 2012-2014

	2012	2013 ^P	2014 ^P
			€ 000
Imports	14,446	15,357	14,955
Printed book material	9,866	10,613	9,885
Printed periodicals	4,580	4,744	5,070
Exports	3,936	5,930	6,601
Printed book material	3,676	5,555	6,586
Printed periodicals	260	375	15

^P Provisional

Source: International Trade Statistics, NSO.

Table 6. Private final consumption expenditure in the domestic market: 2012-2014

	2012 ^P	2013 ^P	2014 ^P
			€ 000
Total private final consumption expenditure	4,805,281	4,963,800	5,178,393
<i>of which:</i>			
Sub-total	55,295	50,629	49,585
Books	31,007	29,856	28,643
Newspapers and periodicals	18,231	16,398	16,085
Miscellaneous printed matter	6,057	4,376	4,856
% spent on printed material	1.15	1.02	0.96

^P Provisional

Source: National Accounts, NSO.

Methodological notes

1. In Table 5 goods are classified according to the Harmonised System division codes:
 - 4901 - Printed books, brochures, leaflets and similar printed matter, whether or not in single sheets.
 - 4902 - Newspapers, journals and periodicals, whether or not illustrated or containing advertising material.
 2. In Table 6 '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.
- and excludes:
- pre-franked postcards and aerogrammes;
 - stamp albums.