



## Maltese Language Resource Server

### Project Title

Maltese Language Resource Server

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The Maltese Language Resource Server (MLRS) project has two related objectives that concern the creation of electronic resources for the Maltese language. Both are crucial if the language is to flourish within the information society. The first is an electronic dictionary; the second a Maltese National Corpus of language data. Examples of application areas include: spell and style check; information extraction and retrieval; document classification, multilingual translation; dialogue management and voice control.

The creation of Maltese-sensitive computer programmes is of immense interest in the context of the evolving information society in Malta. However, a major obstacle to the creation of such programmes for Maltese is the lack of suitable resources, and it is this issue that the project seeks to address. One resource that is of crucial importance is an electronic dictionary or "computational lexicon". Such a lexicon is an essential building block of any language-enabled system and must contain information about every potential word form which the system might come across, in order to guide subsequent processing. Besides spelling, such information includes pronunciation, contexts of use, meaning etc. The project aims to

develop a framework for the creation, maintenance and deployment of a computational lexicon of Maltese.

The core functionality of the system is built into a server. Many of the basic services are accessible over the Internet using an ordinary web browser. At the same time, the system supports the addition of new lexical services in response to evolving demands. The team has designed a specialised client programme for use by lexicographers for the maintenance of lexical entries over the web.

The content of the dictionary is another issue that is being tackled. It cannot be the copy of a paper dictionary because of copyright issues and the fact that paper dictionaries quickly become outdated. The approach in this project is to address these problems directly by extracting words from current primary sources known as "language resources". Once the words have been extracted, information about the respective entries will be added by specialists.

Further information about the project is to be found at  
<http://mlrs.cs.um.edu.mt/>