

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN NATIONAL LIBRARIANS (CENL) - 2008

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF TURKEY

Name of Country: TURKEY

Name of Library: Milli Kutuphane

Name of Chief Executive: Tuncel ACAR, President

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Acquisitions

National Library of Turkish (NLT), as in all the national libraries, obtains all the information-containing materials printed and published or produced in Turkey and abroad weather through Legal Deposit Act printed, or by purchasing or by receiving donations or by way of exchange. Approximately 20-30 thousand materials are from legal deposit, 6-10 thousands are donations and 300-500 are purchasing. In 2007 the fund allocated to foreign and domestic purchase is USD **95.150.-** (as the CBRT Exchange Rates of 20th of June of 2008).

Collection

National Library owns a collection of **2,752,670** volumes consisting of books, periodicals and non-book materials. The number of books in National Library is **1,194,793** while the periodicals collection contains **1,331,927** volumes. The total number of other materials such as maps, posters, musical notes, sound recordings and pictures is **199.340**, and that of rare titles and valuable manuscripts is **26.610**.

Conservation / Preservation of Collections

A significant portion of the rare books and manuscripts in Turkey are preserved in NLT. In order to comprehend the difficulty that National Library faces with respect to preservation and restoration, it would be enough to consider that, in addition to **26.610** manuscripts, this collection includes approximately **56.220** books and **6.700** periodicals printed with Arab alphabet belong to 1728-1928 era. In this collection where the oldest piece carries the date of 1272, there are exceedingly original and valuable works such as a 700 year old Bible in Grek that scripted on gazelle hide, the first Ottoman encyclopaedia dated from 1428, the Mesnevi of the renowned sophistic poet Mevlana in Persian and duplicated in the 18th century, a Kor'an from 1828. Some of rare books and manuscripts have been deteriorated because of over usage. For the repairs convenient to their origins and transformation of them to the future generation, Pathology and Restoration Department had been planned to be established in newly built NLT building which came into service in 2005. The Restoration and conservation works have been worked with five staff by using basic pathological methods over one of the most ancient Quranic manuscripts.

The NLT has 26.610 volumes of manuscripts collections. It has been started digitizing the manuscripts in 2004. At the end of 2007, 24.700 volumes of manuscripts have been digitized and are now available on www.yazmalar.gov.tr webpage. The digitisations of manuscripts have been continuing. We are planning to complete digitization at the end of 2008. In addition to this, the

newspapers **Cumhuriyet, Hürriyet and Milliyet** which were published in between 1948-70 are also digitized (**151.780 poses**). In 2006-2007, **6.000** volumes of **1750** kinds of Arab alphabet-printed periodicals transformed into microfilms as **2709** bobbins, **273.000** poses.

Services for Users:

Services for Users are carried out according to the Regulations for Users Services dated to 2008. A security system has been installed for monitoring the entrance and the exit of users. In the National Library, besides a music hall for the users who want to listen to the audio material, there is a section for visually handicapped, which we call "Talking Library" where the written-printed works have been read by volunteers and recorded on CDs. To make recording and copying works be in accordance with the developing technology, a digital record studio which has 5 reading cabins was constructed. Visually handicapped users can reach these records by using the web page of the National Library.

In 2007, the number of materials (books, photocopies, microfilms) demanded by foreign libraries has been 64 and our demands from foreign libraries have been 369. At the end of May 2008 demands from foreign libraries have been 110.

In 2007 the number of the general users of the Library is 408.690 and these users have utilized 93.798 materials. During the first five months of 2008, 208.110 general users have been demanded and utilized 46.190 materials.

Inter-library Co-Operation

Conference of Directors of National Libraries of Turkic Republics was held by NLT between the dates of June 4-8 2007. Holding such a conference between Turkic Republics that have a common past and denominator in language, religion, history and cultural heritage has a strategic importance in strengthening the existing ties and enhancing the cooperation on a basis of knowledge and document sharing.

The integration process of the National Library of Turkey to the European Library has been continuing. The collection description, the translation of the interface and other issues related to integration has been planning to finalize at the end of September.

National Library has agreed on Cultural Exchange Programs with several countries within the context of its Cultural Exchange Program. Published by NLT itself, the "Turkish National Bibliography" and "Bibliography of Articles in Turkish Periodicals" are sent to 251 different libraries, institutes of Oriental Studies and information centers in 71 countries. Furthermore, publications are exchanged with 122 addresses.

Cultural Activities

2008 is the 1000th anniversary of birth of Kasgarli Mahmud who was a renowned Turkish linguist, philologist and ethnographer and the first Turkish cartographer of Turkic dialects, who lived in the eleventh century. His anniversary of birth is one of the anniversaries which are related to UNESCO; therefore it will be celebrated in Turkey and in some countries that are members of UNESCO.

Kasgarli Mahmud's most famous work is the book entitled "Divân-i Lügati't-Türk". The only handwritten copy of the book was found in 1910. In his book, Mahmud tried to prove the richness of Turkish language and its value besides Arabic and Persian. Accordingly, he wrote the grammar book entitled "Kitâbu Cevâhirü'n-Nahvi Lügâti't-Türk" to teach Turkish to Arabs. Consequently, NLT organized a conference and exhibition about Kasgarli Mahmud and his masterpiece Divanu Lugati't-Turk. Prof. Dr. Ahmet Bican Ercilasun made a presentation about Kasgarli Mahmud in this conference.

NLT has organized a cultural activity named as "Poetry Days" with the collaboration of VEKAM. This activity has become on last Friday of every month for three years. In every meeting, different Turkish Poems are presented and also his/her poets are recited.

Furthermore, with the collaboration of "Eurasian Writers Association" NLT has been holding conferences in 2008. Each month there is a meeting at NLT conference Hall. This meetings focus on different countries' literature.

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