

TURKEY

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF TURKEY

Annual Report 1998 to the Conference of European National Libraries

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Finance and Funding

The current budget and the investment budget of National Library are TL88,700,000,000 and TL200,000,000,000, respectively, making a total budget of TL288,700,000,000 (US\$ 1,046,014; US\$1= TL 276,000).

Legal Deposit of Materials

A scheme for updating the Legal Deposit Act dating back to 1934 has been prepared by a special commission formed within the Ministry of Culture. If this project to which the National Library is also a contributor can be realised, the collection of non-book materials, and especially of those related to computer technology will be possible. This scheme assigns the National Library the task of collection.

Acquisitions

National Library owns a collection of 1,553,897 volumes consisting of books, periodicals and non-book materials. The number of books in National Library is 956,647 while the periodicals collection contains 483,133 volumes. The total number of other materials such as maps, posters, musical notes, sound recordings and pictures collected in special collections is 92,318 and that of rare titles and valuable manuscripts is 21,799. National Library obtains these materials by collecting, purchasing, exchanging and by donations. The number of books acquired in 1998 until the month of June is 3828. But it is estimated that the rate of leakage caused by the gaps in the Law of Collection is about 30%. The funds allocated to foreign purchases is TL 15,000,000,000 and domestic purchases is and TL 25,000,000,000, respectively.

IT and New Technology

The number of bibliographic records in the National Library database has reached a number of 600,000 and the online access is available for the users. Recently, upon Internet facilities and the ease of access to some online databases free of charge, search request on CD-ROM databases has been decreased, so the only updated CD-ROM database in hard use is Dissertation Abstracts.. The regularly updated CD-ROM database can only be used within the Library but the output can be copied upon request. The National Library has been linked to the Internet with a speed of 128 Kbps and data banks such as Data Star, Blaise Line, BRS, STN and OCLC since 1994. All programs required for accessing the Internet have been already installed.

Services to Readers

The National Library Regulations for User Services (1984) are currently valid. The production of catalogue cards has been suspended after the initiation of computerized services. A security system has been installed for monitoring the entrance and the exit of the users. The number of materials (books, photocopies, microfilms) demanded from foreign libraries is 38 while that received is 56. The number of the users of the Library is 254,467 and these users have used 301,109 materials.

Major Celebrations, Anniversaries and Events

The National Library Exhibition Hall is in the service of individuals and organisations for scientific, academic, social and cultural exhibitions.

In the context of the **75th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Republic of Turkey**, some activities performed in 1997-1998:

- November 14, 1997: Panel on the topic "Atatürk and Culture"
- December 29, 1997: Program for the commemoration of Mehmet Akif Ersoy on the 61st anniversary of his death
- April 15, 1998: Panel and slide show on the topic "The New Woman of the Republican Era"
- May 20, 1998: Panel on the topic "The Problems and Social Responsibilities of Youth"

Additionally certain panels and exhibitions will be held on important dates such as the celebration of the Establishment of the Republic on October 29 and the Commemoration of Atatürk on November 10.

Publishing

In addition to the National Bibliographies and catalogues prepared by the Library, the printing department of National Library prints the publications of Ministry of Culture. The publications of the National Library are as follows:

- **Tables for the Classification of Islam and Islamic Sciences**, by Dr.Fahriye Gündoğdu
- **On DOS 20**, by Dr.Fahriye Gündoğdu

- **From National to Universal:** The 50th Anniversary of Turkish National Library
- **Merv and its Libraries,** by Yazberdiev

Cataloguing and Other Technical Process

Cataloguing in The National Library is based on computerized systems. Bibliographic records are defined in accordance with AACR2 Rev. Ed. and OCLC MARC formats and directly loaded into the National Library database and also put into service through OPAC.

Library Co-Operation

The National Library has agreed on Cultural Exchange Programs with 33 countries within the context of its Cultural Exchange Program. "Turkish Bibliography" and "Turkish Articles Bibliography" are sent to 83 countries and a total of 560 libraries, institutes for Oriental Studies and information centres worldwide. Furthermore, publication exchanges are made with 155 addresses.

Staffing Matters

Currently 219 people, composed of 1 president, 1 vice-president, 3 head of department and 15 division managers, 14 librarians, 8 experts and the others working as government employees and temporary employees on contract, are employed by the Presidency of The National Library. The personnel often participate in in-service training courses organised by the Ministry and the Presidency. National Library encounters difficulties in employing new personnel due to the hard amount of work and the little amount of payment. Changes regarding the personnel can also be caused by factors exterior to National Library.

Notable Information

The National Library, due to the budget deficiency, meets financial difficulties in accomplishing the projects it started and preparing new ones. Thus, the support of international organisations is needed. Being a member of international organisations of libraries such as IFLA, FID, COMLIS, LIBER, CENL and CDNL, National Library pays its annual dues regularly.

Other Developments

Conservation / Preservation of Collections

A significant portion of the rare volumes and manuscripts in Turkey are preserved in National Library. In order to comprehend the difficulty that National Library faces with respect to preservation and restoration, it would be enough to consider that the mentioned collection includes 21,799 manuscripts, 8,929 legal registrations from the Ottoman Era, approximately 60,000 books, 2,350 volumes of periodicals in Arabic script between 1728-1928.

The works on the transfer of manuscripts, rare volumes and periodicals into microfilms in the National Library Collection are being carried out. 4,080 Legal Registrations from the Ottoman period have been transferred into microfilms till 1997. The transfer of the remaining 4,849 registrations will continue in 1998 according to the project.

The National Library Pathology and Restoration Center

It is a fact that the manuscripts and rare volumes in the National Library deteriorate due to the negative influences of the physical, chemical and biological conditions that they are in. The Presidency is well aware of this situation and feels the responsibility for the preparation and realization of effective projects.

The Pathology Center at the Süleymaniye Library which had been equipped with the latest technology and great financial resources had to be closed down due to the absence of competent staff. The opening of a modern pathology

centre within National Library must take the Süleymaniye experience into account.

The project for the formation of a "Center of Pathology and Restoration in the National Library" through the years 1998-2002 has been prepared in 1997 and related studies have been started. The essential equipment will be purchased with the finances allotted this year. In the following years the priorities will be the total instalment of the equipment and the training of staff in foreign countries.

National Library for the Visually Handicapped

National Library launched a project oriented towards the visually handicapped in 1955 with an aim to prepare books in Braille for the visually handicapped people who wanted to have secondary education. However, the lack of personnel caused this project to be terminated in 1986. One more cause of this decision was the opening of the Talking Library at the same year and the increased tendency toward recording books on tape. Another project concerning the recording of 5 daily newspapers and several weekly magazines on cassette had to be cancelled as a result of the lack of personnel and financial resources.

Obviously it is impossible to claim that the service is satisfactory. Because the recording of books on tape continues only thanks to the volunteers.

Moreover, the warehouses where the titles in Braille are kept and the hall where they are used are not adequate with respect to capacity and technical equipment.

The establishment of a national centre to coordinate and standardise the services to be presented to the visually handicapped is essential. It is inevitable that this centre will be formed within National Library which possesses the wealthiest collection in Turkey and is assigned a special mission.

Therefore a National Library for the Visually Handicapped connected to the main building through a corridor must be constructed within the National Library campus. The preparations before the construction are being carried out. It is estimated that the project will be completed in 5 years provided no political or financial problems emerge.

The technical equipment and personnel of this library must be sufficient. The library which will be responsible for organising the cooperation between the public libraries in the rest of the country and other departments in the service of the visually handicapped in other institutions, will also handle the exchange of materials and ameliorate the borrowing systems.

The basis of the collection of the National Library for the Visually Handicapped will be provided by the books recorded on tape and those in Braille that are presently in the Talking Library collection which includes about 600 books recorded on tape, 200 books and 500 periodicals in Braille.