

TURKEY

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF TURKEY

Annual Report 1999 to the Conference of European National Libraries

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Statistics of NLT 1999

Budget

Total \$1,210,582

Collections

Books 966,512
Periodicals vol. 565,493
Non-book materials 92,375
Manuscripts 21,839
TOTAL 1,646,219

Users enrolled 369,676

Staff 211

1. Special Topic 1998 - 1999

Management of the library (developments and improvements)

National Library is one of the main institutions linked to the Ministry of Culture. Thus, the final decision about all administrative and financial issues is made by the Ministry. The Library is governed by a president, a vice-president, three heads of department and fifteen division managers. The two fundamental problems of the Library are as follows:

1. Staffing matters
 - a. Difficulty of employing qualified personnel
 - b. Difficulty of employing an adequate number of personnel
2. Budget problems

- a. The insufficiency of the budget
- b. The fact that the budget items do not cover the expenses for the realization of the projects and the renewal of the technological substructure

2. Finance and funding

The total budget of the NLT is TL 457.600.000.000 (US\$ 1,210,582; US\$1= TL 378.000).

Due to the fact that the Library does not enjoy an autonomous structure and an independent budget, the delivery of certain services is hampered. Problems are encountered in such fields as:

- The design and the realization of new projects,
- Purchase of new publications,
- The renewal of the computer hardware and software,
- The mailing of books and bibliographies abroad,
- Purchase of paper to be used for the publishing of bibliographies and catalogues.

Being a unit dependent on the Ministry of Culture, it is impossible for National Library to create new financial resources or expand the present ones.

3. Legal Status

With the enactment of the Establishment Law on March 29, 1950, the NLT assumed a legal identity. The foundation of a Bibliographical Institute working under the NLT was ensured the "Supplementary Law" to the Establishment Law of the National Library of Turkey" dated May 18, 1955.

4. 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.

The content and the structure of the Legal Deposit Act which retained its validity to the present day can hardly meet the needs of today. The Law does not mention any regulations about new sorts of material developed by technological changes and causes significant delays on organizational matters. The scheme prepared by the commission mentioned above for updating the Law has also been approved by the other ministries and thus it can be said to be in the procedure of becoming a law.

The major changes that the proposal involves are as follows:

- a) The conduction of the collection procedure will be handed over to the Library.
- b) The Library will be responsible for the assignment of ISBN and ISSN codes.
- c) The number of collection libraries will be reduced from 6 to 3 and that of the editions to be collected will be reduced from 6 to 4.
- d) The variety among the sorts of material will be increased (so as to include computer-based materials, etc.)

5. Acquisitions

National Library owns a collection of 1.646.219 volumes consisting of books, periodicals and non-book materials. The number of books in National Library is 966.512 while the periodicals collection contains 565.493 volumes. The total number of other materials such as maps, posters, musical notes, sound recordings and pictures collected in special collections is 92.375 and that of rare titles and valuable manuscripts is 21.839. National Library obtains these materials by collecting, purchasing, exchanging and by donations. The funds allocated to foreign purchases is TL 6.382.500.000 and domestic purchases is TL 5.785.147.000, respectively.

6. 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 21.839 manuscripts, 8.929 legal registrations from the Ottoman Era, approximately 60.000 books, 6.625 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. 7.078 Legal Registrations from the Ottoman period have been transferred into microfilms till 1998. The transfer of the remaining 1.851 registrations will continue in 1999 according to the project.

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 such as hardware was bought at the end of 1998.

7. IT and New Technology

The number of bibliographic records in the National Library database has reached a number of 615.000 and the online access is available from the NLT home page for the users. 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 online connections to data banks such as Data Star, STN since 1994. All programs required for accessing the Internet have been already installed.

8. 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 5 while that received is 7. The number of the users of the Library is 369.676 and these users have used 446.317 materials.

National and international book demands are handled by the departments of Reader Services and Foreign Relations. It is considered that the procedure for the supply of documents from abroad must be re-organized within the body of the Department of Foreign Relations and related studies are being conducted.

9. 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 only publication of the National Library is;

- Tribute to The National Library

10. 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.

7000 books have been classified according to the principles of Dewey Decimal Classification System and catalogued according to AACR2 rules and USMARC formats within the context of the Automation Project carried out in 1998. It is planned that this project and backward cataloguing will be continued.

11. Library Co-Operation

The National Library has agreed on Cultural Exchange Programs with several 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.

Yet the need for updating the addresses arose and the necessary correspondences with local and foreign institutions have started. With the help of the information thus gathered, it will be possible to update both the addresses and the records about the demands for our publications.

12. Staffing Matters

Currently 211 people, composed of 1 president, 1 vice-president, 3 head of department and 15 division managers, 17 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 mentioned in the Special

Topic, 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.

Because the Library is dependent on the Ministry, the number of staff transferred as directors to the Library having a formation on librarianship is continuously decreasing. Due to this fact, a new Regulation on the Transfer of Governing Personnel to National Library has been prepared and is ready for application.

13. 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.

Some activities performed in Aug. 1998 - Mar. 1999 by the National Library of Turkey:

- 18-24 Aug. 1998 Exhibition entitled "The Love of an American for Turkey"
- 21-29 Oct. 1998 Exhibition of "Books about the Republic"
- 25 Dec. 1998 Exhibition of "Books about İnönü"
- 22 Feb. 1999 Display of the film "Dissolution"
- 10-16 Mar. 1999 Exhibition entitled "The Love of an American for Turkey" (In AKM Hall, Istanbul)
- 21 Mar. 1999 The staging of the play "Rose Garden"

Additionally certain panels and exhibitions will be held on important dates such as the celebration of the 700th Anniversary of the Formation of the Ottoman Empire.

14. 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.