

# THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF TÜRKİYE ANNUAL REPORT 2024

DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR LIBRARIES AND PUBLICATIONS



REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
AND TOURISM



NATIONAL LIBRARY  
OF TÜRKİYE







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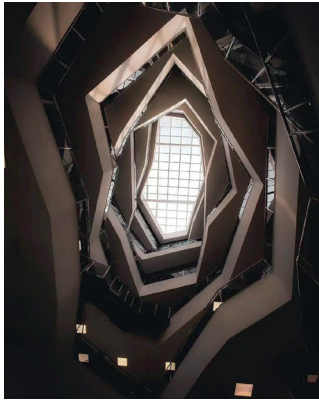


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# The National Library of Türkiye Annual Report 2024



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# Introduction by the Director General

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Dear colleagues,

As the Directorate General for Libraries and Publications and the National Library, we left behind another year of important work. In 2024, we successfully continued many key projects and works for the National Library of our Directorate General and achieved important goals.

We have strengthened ongoing projects and works such as Talking Library, digitization efforts and library databases while also launching significant initiatives like National Digital Library, Mütferrika Project and AI-powered smart library services.

Furthermore, we have carried out important works to actively represent the National Library in international organizations in the field of librarianship such as IFLA, CDNL, CENL, SEENL and ECO-The Conference of National Library Directors. We are proud that the National Library hosted the 11<sup>th</sup> AGM of the South Eastern European National Librarians (SEENL) in Ankara in 2024. We also signed Memorandums of Understanding to increase cooperation with the national libraries of North Macedonia, Kosovo and the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2024.

The National Library Annual Report 2024, which you have in your hands, shows the activities carried out at the National Library in 2024, as well as the development achieved in services compared to previous years.

In the coming days, we are determined to continue our efforts to increase the development of our existing projects and international collaborations, to bring new digital-based services required by the age of technology to the users of the National Library.

I would like to thank you in advance for the valuable time you will devote to reviewing this annual report, and I would like you to know that we are open to all of your ideas, suggestions and cooperation to further improve our National Library services.

With my deepest regards,

**Taner BEYOĞLU**  
**Director-General**

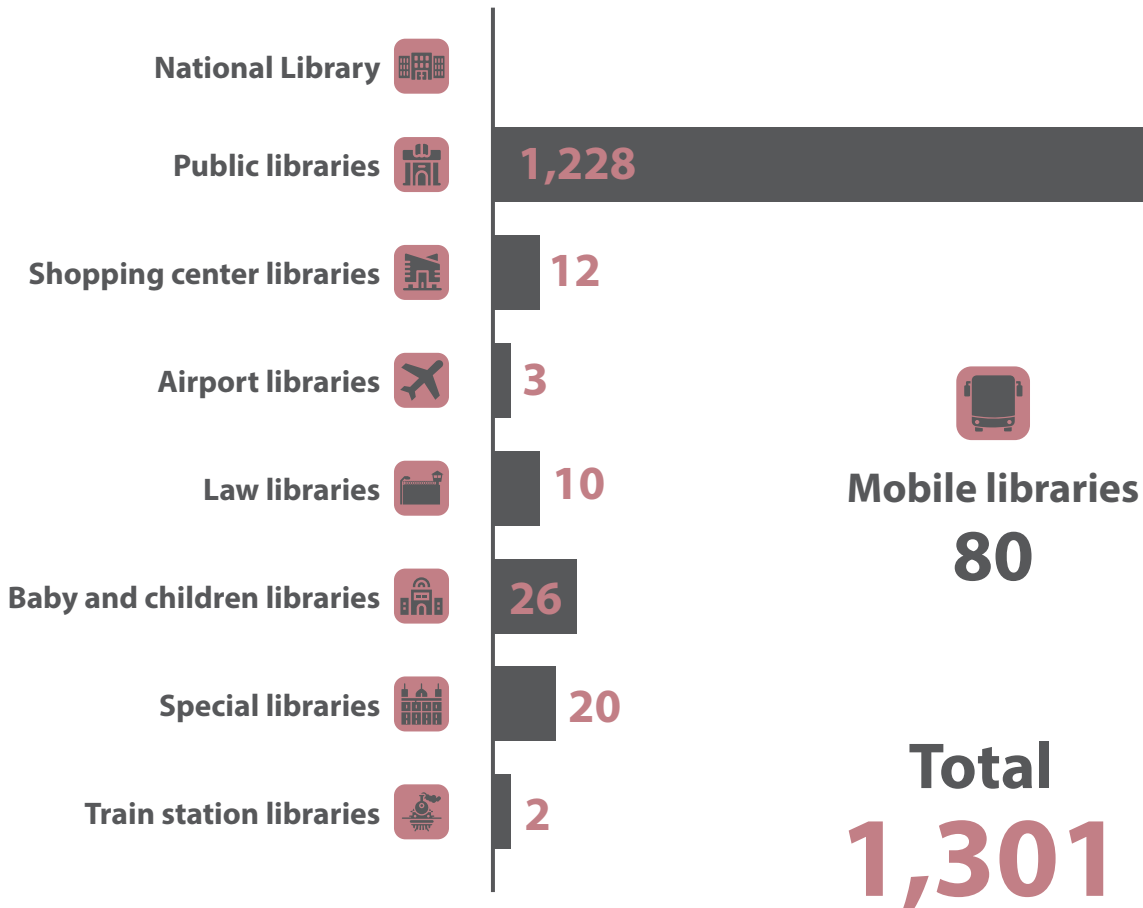


## Directorate General for Libraries and Publications

Together with the National Library, 1,228 public libraries, 26 baby and children libraries, 20 special libraries, 12 shopping center libraries, 3 airport libraries, 10 law libraries, 2 train station libraries and 80 mobile libraries provide library services to all parts of Türkiye under the Directorate General for Libraries and Publications of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

By the Presidential Decree issued on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the National Library has started to give its services under the organization of Directorate General for Libraries and Publications. With this new organization, the National Library has set an example for other libraries under our Directorate General as a leader library and has made significant breakthroughs in all libraries in librarianship-related works.

**Figure 1.** Libraries that serve under the Directorate General for Libraries and Publications





**Figure 2.** A national day event at the garden of a public library in Türkiye





# The National Library of Türkiye

The National Library of Türkiye was founded by Adnan Cahit Ötüken who was an educator and also an author in 1946 in Kızılay, Ankara. After 2 years, it started to service in the building where Adnan Ötüken Provincial Public Library is still servicing now. In 1983, the National Library moved to its current building in Bahçelievler.

The total size of the library is 39,000 m<sup>2</sup> and 9,000 m<sup>2</sup> of it is open to the public. There are 6 reading halls, 2 research halls, 8 repositories, each of which is approximately 600 m<sup>2</sup>, where the books are archived and preserved. Across all sites, there are 1,339 seats open to users in the library.

## Facts and Figures on Collection, User and Services in the National Library

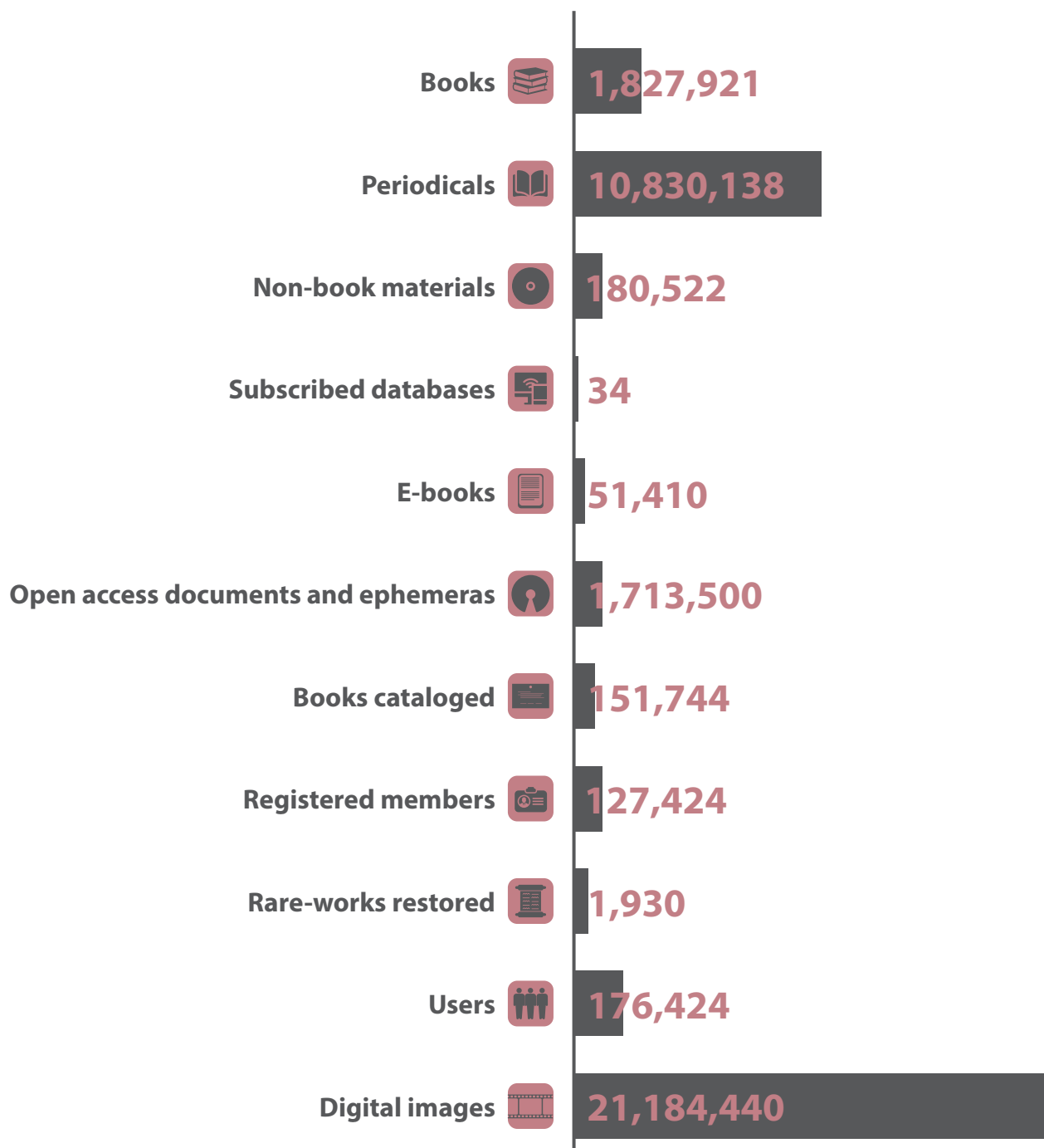
With 1,827,921 printed books, 51,410 e-books, 10,830,138 periodicals, 180,522 non-book materials, 1,713,500 ephemeris and 21,184,440 digital images, services are offered to 127,424 registered members and 176,424 users annually.

**Figure 3.** The National Library of Türkiye, a view from outside





**Figure 4.** General statistics of the National Library on collection, user and services



**Table 1.** Materials in the National Library collection (2020-2024)

Material type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Book	1,475,337	1,545,352	1,632,589	1,689,166	1,827,921
Periodical (in volumes)	261,442	293,799	302,043	310,472	313,859
Periodical (in types)	43,871	45,285	49,483	55,104	55,544
Banner	30,940	31,033	31,069	31,146	31,233
Brochure	12,216	12,341	12,387	12,532	12,570
Digital recording (Movie, CD/DVD)	5,363	5,715	5,802	6,021	6,032
Digital recording (Graphics, CD/DVD)	7,309	7,596	7,652	7,795	8,080
Digital recording (Music, CD/DVD)	7,153	7,206	7,266	7,282	7,379
Digital recording (Thesis CD/DVD)	16,523	16,927	17,597	18,453	18,884
Figure	444	444	444	444	444
Photo	8,604	13,545	15,385	18,485	19,513
Engraving	29	29	29	29	29
Map	6,700	6,762	6,768	6,785	6,831
Postcard	11,439	11,473	11,477	11,500	12,249
Training set	361	412	454	506	537
Sheet music	6,769	6,769	8,454	11,612	15,112
Plastic plaque	4,263	4,263	4,263	4,264	4,265
Stamp	2,994	2,994	2,994	2,994	2,994
Reproduction	3,886	3,890	3,891	3,894	3,897
Table	618	618	619	619	619
Calendar	2,566	2,599	2,652	2,681	2,693
Stone plaque	6,203	6,203	6,203	6,203	6,203
Illumination	256	256	272	272	272
Printmaking	94	94	94	94	94
Document	154	154	154	246	294
Information card	1,393	1,599	1,799	1,812	2,012
Invitation	2,222	2,222	2,222	2,222	2,222
Diploma	38	38	38	38	38
Photo album	449	449	450	459	472
First day envelope	437	437	481	481	522
Lobby banner	11,848	11,848	11,848	11,848	11,848
Letter	487	487	487	525	525
National Lottery Ticket	2,001	2,001	2,001	2,001	2,001
Money	155	155	167	167	168
Plan	284	284	284	285	285
Deed	80	80	80	80	80
Puzzle	54	75	100	110	125



**Figure 5.** Books on the shelves in the Library



## Event Statistics of the National Library in 2024

Similar to the recent years, hundreds of events including conferences, panels, exhibitions, concerts and performing arts were held in the National Library; and hundreds of visits were made from schools, institutions etc. to the library in 2024. Statistical data are given below on the chart:

**Figure 6.** Number of events in the National Library of Türkiye in 2024





**Figure 7.** An event in the conference hall of The National Library of Türkiye in 2024



## The Main Works and Projects of The National Library

In this part, the National Library and legal deposit works, National Bibliographic Identification and Control Project, digitalization works in the National Library, National Digital Library Project, Talking Library, export period in technologic infrastructures of library services, databases accessible from the National Library, Müteferrika Project, AI-based library services in the National Library and restoration works in the library building are explained.

### The National Library and Legal Deposit: A Breakthrough and Historical Record in E-Legal Deposit

Almost all of the printed materials (books, periodicals, films, posters, etc.) published within the borders of Türkiye are made available in 6 Legal Deposit Libraries (The National Library, Presidential Library, İstanbul Beyazıt State Library, İzmir National Library, İstanbul University Library and Documentation Department, Turkish Grand National Assembly Library) through the Legal Deposit System, which works interactively with the ISBN-ISSN system. In addition, e-books have started to be received with the EYDES (Electronic Legal Deposit System) and it has been observed that the legal deposit of e-books has been increasing rapidly in the last two years.

According to 2024 data, the number of printed books (86,106) and e-books (27,436) received by the National Library through legal deposit is 113,542. Besides, 342,987 volumes of 6,482 periodicals were deposited and delivered to the National Library.

**Figure 8.** Legal deposit of printed books and e-books in the National Library (2020-2024)

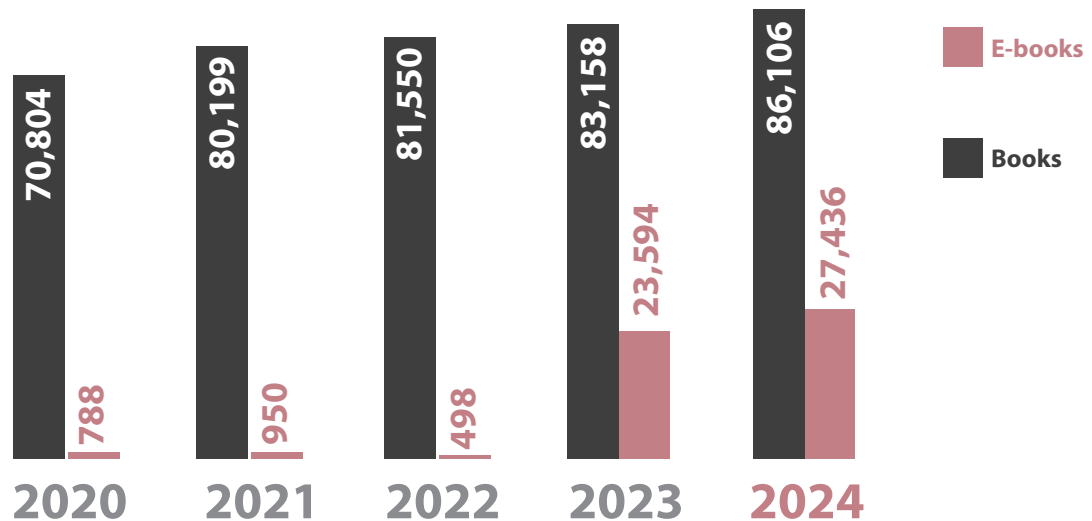
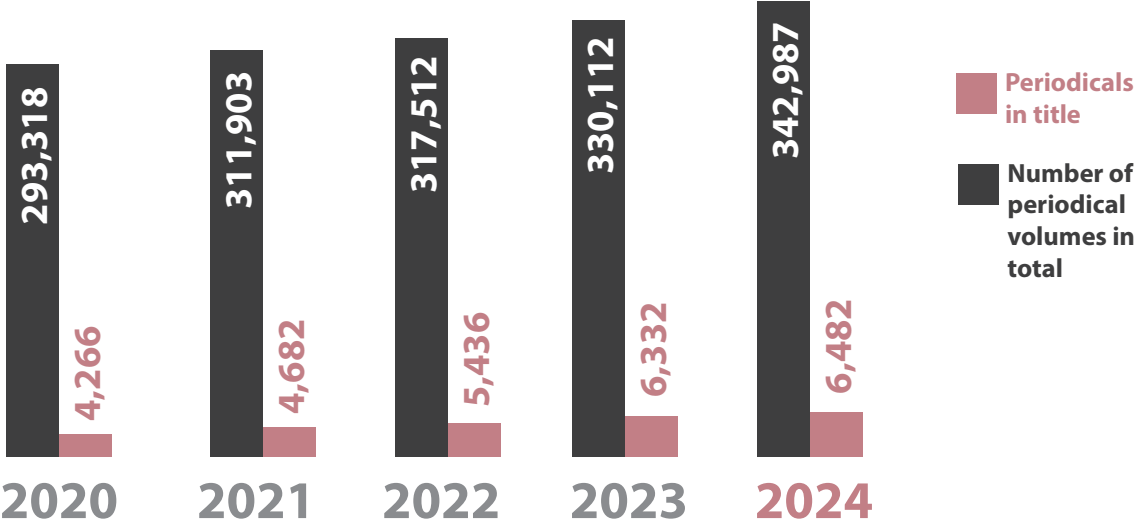




Figure 9. Periodicals in the archive of the National Library



Figure 10. Legal deposit of periodicals in the National Library (2020-2024)



## An Innovative Cultural Initiative: Integrated National Bibliographic Identification and Control Project

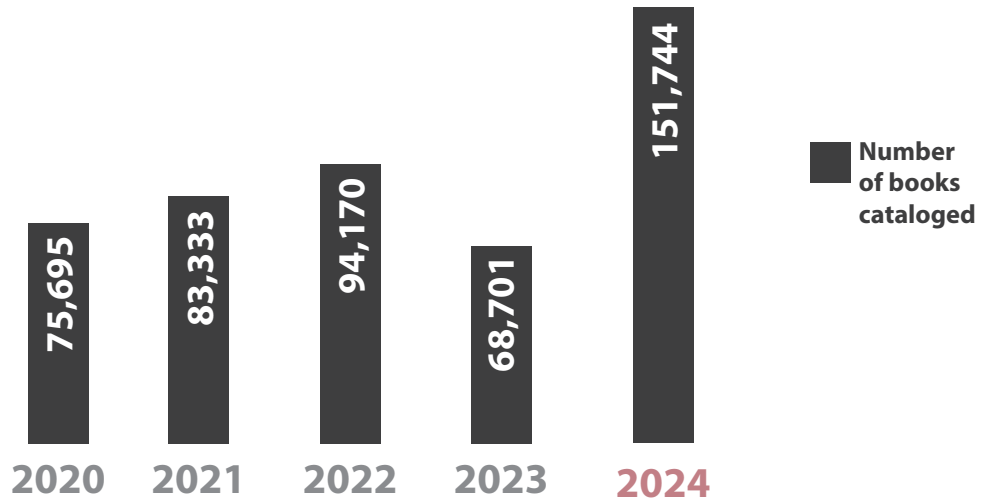
The increasing number of publications makes it difficult to prepare the bibliographic identification of the publications and make them available for user service at the same time. To overcome this difficulty, the National Bibliographic Identification and Control Project was launched and the İstanbul Rami Library Cataloging Center was established in coordination with the National Library Cataloging Center. As a result of the work of both centers, 151,744 books were bibliographically identified in 2024 and they were made available to users.

The data recorded by the Cataloging Centers of the National Library and İstanbul Rami Library in the Kâşif Library Automation Program of the National Library were started to be used on the KOHA Library Automation Program used by 1,301 libraries affiliated to our Ministry. The cataloging of 1,500,000 books acquired by the Directorate General for affiliated libraries was carried out by the National Library. Then, the books were made available to public libraries without further cataloging.

The Project also ensures that the services of the Bibliography of Türkiye and the Bibliographies of Turkish Articles, which are being carried out by the National Library, are fulfilled in a timely and complete manner.

When the Project is finished, it is aimed that the bibliographic data prepared will be used by all libraries of Türkiye.

**Figure 11.** Record number in cataloging in the National Library in 2024





**Figure 12.** Cataloging Department





# Breakthrough

## A Breakthrough in Digitization Works in The National Library

Within the scope of digitization of our cultural heritage works, digitization efforts are carried out to conserve the originals of periodicals (periodicals with old and Latin letters), books and non-book materials (posters, maps, postcards, etc.) in the collection of the National Library, to transfer them to future generations intact and to provide researchers with easier access to the materials. In 2024, nearly 1,600,000 images were digitized. In total, over 21 million images were digitized between 2014 and 2024.

The data of approximately 90,000 works in old Turkish letters and 7,000 periodicals in old letters in the National Library's Kâşif Automation Program were transferred to the Digital Library database to facilitate access by researchers. 4,733 gramophone records made between 1913 and 1960 and performed by local and foreign artists and orchestras, additionally all data of National Library's poster collection were digitized.

Our 2025 target is at least 3 million new images...

**Figure 13.** A scanner with other devices in the Digitalization Department



## National Digital Library Project

National Digital Library Project aims to digitize the National Library's rich resources, including books, periodicals, newspapers, manuscripts, audiovisual materials and non-book materials, ensuring that millions of items are preserved and made readily accessible. The project streamlines access to these resources by implementing a user-friendly, copyright-compliant digital platform that significantly reduces the time and complexity traditionally required for research.

With 100 access stations, this initiative transforms public libraries into dynamic research centers, offering citizens the opportunity to engage with a lot of knowledge and cultural heritage.

The number and diversity of resources available at digital access stations continue to grow. With the National Digital Library Access Stations, the National Library of Türkiye is redefining how knowledge is shared, bridging physical distances, and enriching communities nationwide.

**Figure 14.** National Digital Library Access Station in a public library and promotions of the Project





## Talking Library

Talking Library, which is one of the most popular services in the National Library, offers visually impaired citizens the opportunity to access thousands of voicebooks. The books are voiced by volunteers in a total of 24 recording studios in 7 provinces, 11 of which are in the National Library. Over 6,000 voicebooks are offered to visually impaired members through the library website and mobile application.

In addition, studies have been initiated to voice the books requested by visually impaired users with artificial intelligence, and it is aimed to voice more books and present them to the users in a short time.

**Figure 15.** Talking Library recording studio



## Export Period

### Export Period in Technologic Infrastructures of Library Services

Successful efforts to improve the automation programs and technological infrastructure used by our Ministry to provide services in the National Library and public libraries have also attracted interest from abroad. In this context, in line with the requests received from countries such as Georgia, Azerbaijan, Moldova and Uzbekistan, cooperation is being established in the fields of library automation programs and technology-based library services.



## Databases Accessible from the National Library

With the 10 new academic databases added to the National Library in 2024, the number of online academic databases offered to researchers by the library has reached 34 and the total number of documents and records has reached 106 million. With the newly added academic databases, users can access;

- Millions of pages of newspapers and documents, as well as journals, maps, periodicals, monographs, books and electronic resources on the world's largest platform in the field of social sciences,

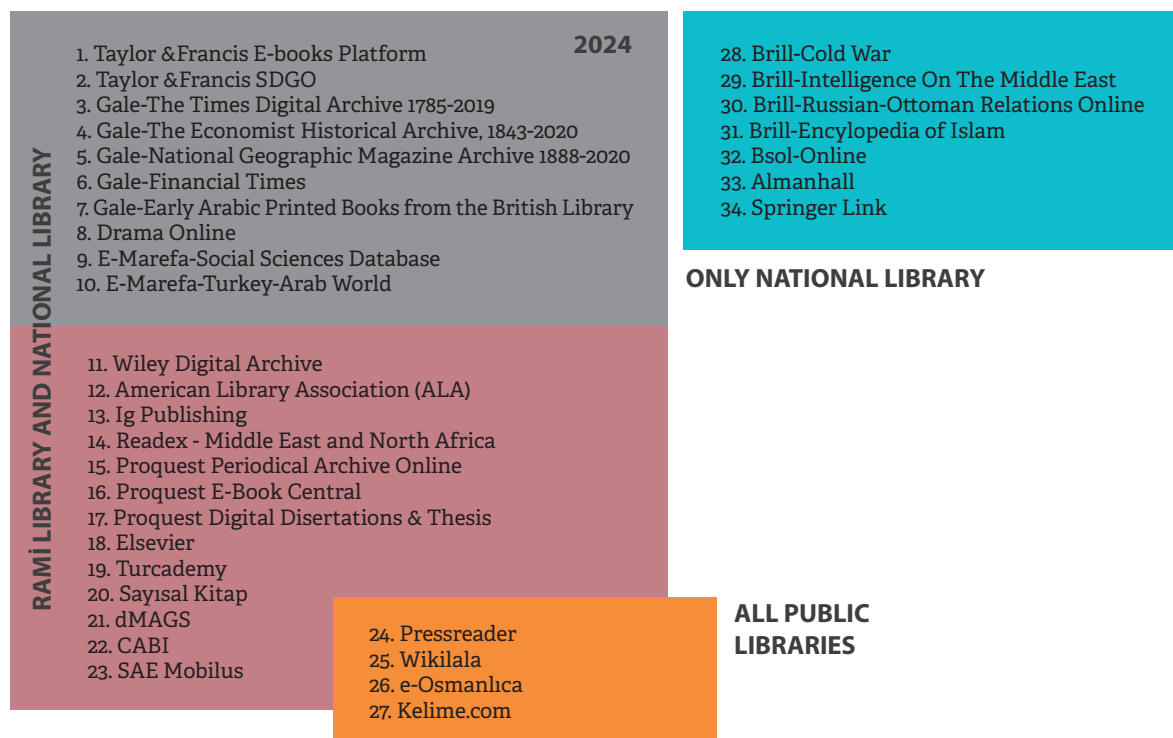
- Large theater and drama archive with more than 3,350 play texts, 400 audio plays and 365 minutes of video content by 1,200 authors,

- Over 134 thousand e-books with simultaneous and unlimited users in the fields of social sciences and humanities,

- Huge geography archive containing photographs, articles, natural events and cultural texts from around the world,

- 3 million-page archives of the world's most important journals in the fields of current politics and economy, and more.

**Figure 16.** All databases accessible from the National Library and other libraries



# Completing the National Memory

## Completing the National Memory: Müferrika Project

The National Library of Türkiye launched the Müteferrika Project in 2024. The Project is a digital cultural archive initiative that aims to fully collect and publish free electronic versions of all printed books that constitute the “national memory”. The Project aims to obtain the books identified as missing in the National Library's collection through various means, digitize those that do not have copyright issues, and make them available to the public. This Project, aims to compile all the works that constitute our national memory and have been published within the borders of our country since the beginning of the printing press and to make them physically and digitally accessible to researchers without any discrimination in terms of subject, type, language, etc.

In the first phase of the Project, more than 11,000 books from 70 provincial public libraries and 192,000 periodicals in 650 types from 70 provinces were identified and brought to the National Library within the scope of the “Local Newspapers to the National Library” Project. In the second phase of the Project, the search for publications published by official institutions but not deposited was initiated.

## AI Based Smart Library Project in the National Library

In 2024, as a priority target for our Directorate General, the AI Based Smart Library Project was initiated within the scope of the integration of artificial intelligence applications, which are rapidly spreading all over the world, with our existing systems. As planned in our public libraries, the National Library will soon provide services to users in many areas such as library membership, catalog searching, borrowing and returning materials, reading hall seat reservations, book advice and event calendar advice through AI-based chatbot stations.



**Figure 17.** AI-based chatbot station



**Figure 18.** The new appearance of a hall in the National Library, suitable for disabled people, after restoration



### Restoration Works of the Research Halls of the National Library

Because the National Library needs research and meeting halls equipped with the latest technological equipment, work is being carried out to restore the existing research halls in order to create new spaces that can be used for the purposes such as organizing international meetings.

**Figure 19.** A reading hall model in the National Library after renovation



## International Works of the National Library

The National Library is a member of international organizations including the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL), The Conference of European National Librarians (CENL), South Eastern European National Librarians (SEENL), Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)-The Conference of National Library Directors, Silk Road International Library Alliance (SRILA), Turkish World National Libraries Association and represented in the annual general meetings and conferences of those organizations regularly.

In addition, the National Library signs Memorandums of Understanding with other National Libraries for cooperation in librarianship regularly. Number of Memorandums of Understanding with other National Libraries is 43 in total.

### Hosting the 11<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Southeastern European National Librarians

The 11<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Southeastern European National Librarians (SEENL) was held in Ankara between October 16 and 18, 2024, hosted by the National Library of Türkiye. 11 participants attended the meeting representing the National Libraries of Bulgaria, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia and Kosovo.

The meeting's main theme, "Accessible Library Services," focused on the accessibility efforts and plans of the member libraries. Taner Beyoğlu, Director General of Libraries and Publications, chaired the event, and the opening keynote was delivered by Dr. Marie-Louise Ayres Faha, President of CDNL and Director General of the National Library of Australia, who highlighted the importance of accessibility in library services and the role of technology in reaching wider audiences. Also, presentations from Türkiye, Croatia, Kosovo and North Macedonia emphasized digital transformation projects aimed at improving accessibility.

Participants visited the National Library of Türkiye, explored its services, and viewed the "In the Footsteps of Time: The Balkans" exhibition. A cultural tour of Ankara followed, showcasing the city's rich heritage.

**Figure 20.** The 11<sup>th</sup> SEENL AGM in Ankara





**Figure 21.** MoU between the National Library of Türkiye and the National Library of Kosovo



### **Memorandums of Understanding Signed in 2024**

New memorandums of understanding were signed between the National Library of Türkiye and the National Libraries of North Macedonia, Kosovo and Democratic Republic of Congo to strengthen the cooperation in the field of librarianship in 2024. Details are given below:

1. Memorandum of Understanding between the National Library of Türkiye and the National Library of North Macedonia (October 18<sup>th</sup> 2024),
2. Memorandum of Understanding between the National Library of Türkiye and the National Library of Kosovo (October 18<sup>th</sup> 2024),
3. Memorandum of Understanding between the National Library of Türkiye and the National Library of Democratic Republic of Congo (November 14<sup>th</sup> 2024).

## Attendance to the 38<sup>th</sup> CENL AGM in Warsaw

The National Library of Türkiye was represented by Taner Beyoğlu, Director General of Libraries and Publications and Orhan Açıkgöz, Culture and Tourism Expert at the CENL 2024 AGM that was held between June 16 and 18, 2024, in Warsaw.

At the meeting, Mr. Beyoğlu made his presentation titled “National E-Legal Deposit System: From Legal Framework to Library Practices” with details about EYDES (Electronic Legal Deposit System) in Türkiye and ongoing and future projects such as National Digital Library to the participants.

**Figure 22.** The 38<sup>th</sup> CENL AGM in Warsaw, presentation of the National Library of Türkiye





**Figure 23.** The Conference of Turkish World National Libraries Association in Baku



### **Attendance to the Conference of the Turkish World National Libraries Association in Baku**

Within the framework of the establishment of the Turkish World National Libraries Association, a conference was held in Baku on 10-11 December 2024, hosted by the TURKSOY (The International Organization of Turkic Culture) and the National Library of Azerbaijan. Türkiye, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Hungary and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus National Library directors participated in the event.

Representing the National Library, Taner Beyoğlu, Director General of Libraries and Publications and Filiz Berna Gültekin, Head of Department, took part in the Conference.

This Conference was an important step towards the protection of cultural heritage and the development of common projects to strengthen the cooperation among the Turkish World National Libraries.

**Figure 24.** The Conference of Turkish World National Libraries Association in Baku



## KOHA Library Automation Program Training in Baku

According to the Action Plan prepared within the scope of the Türkiye-Azerbaijan 4<sup>th</sup> Term Culture Commission Meeting held on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the libraries of the two countries will cooperate on the KOHA Library Automation Program. Previously, with the request of the National Library of Azerbaijan, training programs were held face-to-face in 2022 and 2023 in Ankara and online in October 2024 by the Directorate General. In line with the activities of the cultural commission carried out between the two countries and the invitation of the National Library of Azerbaijan, the experts from the Directorate General provided KOHA Library Automation Program Training for the librarians working in the National Library and the relevant public libraries of Azerbaijan in December 2024.

**Figure 25.** KOHA Library Automation Program Training in Baku





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