

TURKEY

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF TURKEY
MR TUNCEL ACAR — PRESIDENT

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2001 – 2002

STATISTICS FOR 2001

BUDGET

Total	USD 1,507,440
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Collections

Books	1,010,599
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Periodicals	vol. 589,959
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Non-book materials	197,114
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Manuscripts	25,611
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TOTAL	1,823,283
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Users enrolled	231,527
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Staff	203
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DEVELOPMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE LIBRARY

The National Library is one of the main institutions linked to the Ministry of Culture and all final decisions about all administrative and financial issues are 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:

- *Staffing Matters*
 - Difficulty of employing qualified personnel
 - Difficulty of employing an adequate number of personnel
- Budget problems
 - The insufficiency of the budget
 - The fact that the budget items do not cover the expenses for the realization of the projects and the renewal of the technological substructure

FINANCE AND FUNDING

The total budget of the NLT is USD 1,507,440.-

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 the National Library to create new financial resources or expand the present ones.

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.

LEGAL DEPOSIT OF MATERIALS

We have new regulation to update the Legal Deposit Act which dates from 1934. With this new regulation the collection of non-book materials, and especially of those related to computer technology is possible.

ACQUISITIONS

National Library owns a collection of 1,823,283 volumes consisting of books, periodicals and non-book materials. The number of books in National Library is 1,010,599 while the periodicals collection contains 589,959 volumes. The total number of other materials such as maps, posters, musical notes, sound recordings and pictures collected in special collections is 197,114 and that of rare titles and valuable manuscripts is 25,611. National Library obtains these materials by collecting, purchasing, exchanging and by donations. The funds allocated to foreign purchases is USD 43,648.- and domestic purchases is USD 55,326.- respectively.

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 25,611 manuscripts, 8,928 legal registrations from the Ottoman Era, approximately 60,000 books, 6,625 periodicals in Arabic script between 1728-1928.

Microfilming of manuscripts, rare volumes and periodicals in the National Library Collection is underway. 600 manuscripts and 98 periodicals in Arabic script between 1728-1928 have been microfilmed in 2001. The remaining periodicals and newspapers in Arabic script between 1728-1928 will also be microfilmed.

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 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.

IT AND NEW TECHNOLOGY

The number of bibliographic records in the National Library database has reached a number of 619,000 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 512 Kbps. 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 by foreign libraries is 29 while we received is 45. The number of the users of the Library is 231,527 and these users have used 155,355 materials.

National and international book requests are handled by the Section of Reader Services and Section of Foreign Relations and Cultural Activities.

PUBLISHING

In addition to the National Bibliographies and catalogues prepared by the Library, the Printing Department of the National Library prints the publications of the Ministry of Culture.

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, classified according to the principles of Dewey Decimal Classification System 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 several countries within the context of its Cultural Exchange Program. "Turkish Bibliography" and "Turkish Articles Bibliography" are sent to 73 countries and a total of 251 libraries, institutes for Oriental Studies and information centres worldwide. Furthermore, publication exchanges are made with 122 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.

STAFFING MATTERS

Currently 203 staff, composed of 1 president, 1 vice-president, 3 head of department and 15 section director, 19 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.

MAJOR CELEBRATIONS, ANNIVERSARIES AND EVENTS

The National Library Conference and Exhibition Hall is in the service of individuals and organisations for scientific, academic, social and cultural activities. We organised several anniversaries and book exhibition, also Library Week celebrated in the National Library Conference and Exhibition Hall.

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.

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