

# TURKEY

## NATIONAL LIBRARY OF TURKEY (MILLI KUTUPHANE)

TUNCEL ACAR – PRESIDENT

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2007

Total Budget for 2006: USD\$ 6,007,902.

### COLLECTIONS (AS OF THE END OF MAY 2007)

Books	1,161,936*
Periodicals (vol.)	1,178,875
<i>Non-book materials</i>	<i>199,043</i>
Manuscripts	26,281
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>2,566,135</i>

General beneficiary:

Users	(January-December 2006):	303,384
	(January-May 2007):	148,174

Staff	198
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### SPECIAL TOPIC: MANAGEMENT OF THE LIBRARY (DEVELOPMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS)

National Library of Turkey (NLT) is one of the main institutions linked to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. On administrative and financial subjects it has a limited autonomy.

The two fundamental problems of the NLT 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. library budget is generally insufficient; budget items do not cover the costs of new projects.

### BUDGET AND FINANCE

The total budget of the NLT for 2007 is USD \$6,007,902.

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

- The design and the realisation of new projects;
- Purchase of new materials and postal expenses.

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\* If there is not any different or contrary mentioning, all figures show the situation in May 2007.

## LEGAL STATUS

The NLT, which actively had started to operate in **1946**, with the enactment of the Establishment Law on **29 March 1950** assumed a legal identity. The materials in our collection are acquired through the Legal Deposit Act which has been realised in **1934**. Regulations related to these two Laws have been continuing

## ACQUISITIONS

The NLT, as in all the national libraries, obtains all the information-containing materials printed and published or produced in Turkey and abroad whether through Legal Deposit Act printed, or by purchasing or by receiving donations or by way of exchange. Approximately 20 to 30 thousand materials are from legal deposit, six to 10 thousand are donations and 300 to 500 are purchasing. In **2007** the fund allocated to foreign and domestic purchase is approximately **USD \$300,000**.

## COLLECTION

National Library owns a collection of **2,493,723** volumes consisting of books, periodicals and non-book materials. The number of books in National Library is **1,161,936** while the periodicals collection contains **1,106,540** volumes. The total number of other materials such as maps, posters, musical notes, sound recordings and pictures is **199,014**, and that of rare titles and valuable manuscripts is **26,233**.

## 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 **26,281** manuscripts, this collection includes approximately **56,000** 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 Greek that was scripted on gazelle hide, the **first Ottoman encyclopedia** dated from **1428**, the **Mesnevi** of the renowned sophistic poet **Mevlana** in Persian and duplicated in the **18<sup>th</sup>** 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 started with three staff by using basic pathological methods over one of the most ancient Quranic manuscripts.

We have started the **Digitisation Project** with digitising rare books and manuscripts in **2004**. **At the end of 2004, 100,000 pages (Approximately 1200 volumes of rare books and manuscripts) have been digitised and are available on the web.** The web address is [www.yazmalar.gov.tr](http://www.yazmalar.gov.tr). The digitization of rare books and manuscripts have been continuing. **3,405,000 pages (Approximately 24,000 volumes of rare books and manuscripts) were digitised in 2006 and are available on the web.** We are planning to complete digitisation of rare books and manuscripts at the end of **2007**. **6,000 volumes of 1,747 kinds of Arab-alphabet-printed periodicals transformed into microfilms as 2709 bobbins.**

## IT AND NEW TECHNOLOGY

We have bought the latest version of ALEPH 500 and renewed our information technologies infrastructure. We have also renewed our web page [www.mkutup.gov.tr](http://www.mkutup.gov.tr).

The number of bibliographic records in the NLT database has reached almost **850,000** and the online access is available from the NLT home page for the users. The National Library has been linked to the Internet via speed of **2MB**. All programs required for accessing the Internet have been already installed.

Transferring the printed rare books into the digital medium is also on the way. All the bibliographical records of these books are already available on the web page of the National Library. Meanwhile a collected catalogue has been prepared for the manuscripts which are being kept in the other libraries of the country; their bibliographic records have been transferred to web and produced as a two-CD set.

The transferring of audio material into digital medium and CD's are on the way and over this work it is planned to establish a "digital bank."

### SERVICES FOR USERS

Services for Users are carried out according to the **Regulations for Users Services** dated to 2002. 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 the visually handicapped, which we call "Talking Library" where the written-printed works have been read by volunteers and recorded on tape recorders.

In 2006, the number of materials (books, photocopies, microfilms) demanded by foreign libraries have been **five** and our demands from foreign libraries have been **three**. At the end of May of 2007, these figures are **five** and **one** respectively.

In 2005 the number of the general users of the Library is **303,384** and these users have utilised **138,738** materials. During the first six months of 2007, **148,174** general users have been demanded and utilised **41,478** materials.

### CATALOGUING AND OTHER TECHNICAL PROCESS

Cataloguing in the NLT is based on computerised 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. The ALEPH library software is used in the NLT.

### INTER-LIBRARY CO-OPERATION

The National Library has agreed on Cultural Exchange Programs with several countries within the context of its Cultural Exchange Program. Published by NTL 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.

### STAFFING MATTERS

Currently **198** staff, including **20** librarians, **three** expert and **19** assistant-experts on different subjects are employed in The National Library. As we mentioned under the title "Special Topic" at the beginning, NTL is faced with difficulties about employment of new staff because of low salaries in spite of hard working.

### CONTACT DETAILS

Address: Bahcelievler Son Durak, 06490 Ankara, TURKEY  
Telephone: + 90 312 222 41 48  
Fax: + 90 312 223 04 51  
Web address: <http://www.mkutup.gov.tr>  
Email contact: [tuncel@mkutup.gov.tr](mailto:tuncel@mkutup.gov.tr) [info@mkutup.gov.tr](mailto:info@mkutup.gov.tr)