

ANNUAL REPORT TO 37th CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES (CDNL) GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN, 12 AUGUST 2010

Name of Country : TURKEY
Name of Library : Milli Kutuphane (National Library of Turkey)
Name of Chief Executive : Tuncel ACAR, President

Recent developments and activities

- Parallel to the development of information technologies, the National Library has started to digitize the Old Turkish Periodicals to be able to give better service to researchers via the internet. The first step of the project is to digitize a part of the Periodicals and it will be extended to cover the whole collection. Full-text search on periodicals as well as the detailed information about the articles in those periodicals are available.
- The processes of digitalization of the voice records, which are one of the most important parts of our cultural heritage, have been finalized and now available for the researchers within the library. With the scope of this project, 5500 songs of 2700 phonograph record are digitalized and transferred to digital voice database.
- The Combined Meeting of The European Library was held in Ankara between the dates 2-3 November in 2009. 33 representatives from 18 different countries participated in the meeting. It was the first European Library Combined Meeting
- The integration process to The European Library has been completed and as of the beginning of 2009, the collection of the NLT and Turkish interface are available on The European Library portal. The NLT participated in the “Reading Europe: European culture through the book” exhibition with ten Manuscripts and the integration to this virtual exhibition to be held on September 2010 is in progress.
- The National Library Directors’ Meeting of ECO (Economic Cooperation Organization) countries including Turkey, Pakistan, Iran, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan will be held in the National Library of Turkey in Ankara between 14-16 October 2010.

Collection (as of the end of May 2010)

National Library of Turkey has a collection of 2,892,966 volumes consisting of books, periodicals and non-book materials. The number of books in National Library is 1,182,749 while the periodicals collection contains 1,425,356 volumes. The total number of non-book material such as maps, posters, musical notes, sound recordings and pictures is 201,585 and that of rare titles and valuable manuscripts is 27,049. The number of Old Turkish books is 56,227.

Budget

The total budget of the NLT for 2010 is 12,212,001 TL (6,373,695.72 EUR). Within the total budget the investment budget for 2010 is 5,202,000 TL (2,712,200.20 EUR)

Staffing Matters

Currently 212 staff including 16 librarians, 6 experts and 12 assistant-experts on different subjects are employed in The National Library.

Conservation / Preservation of Collections

A significant portion of the rare books and manuscripts in Turkey are preserved in NLT. Some of the rare books and manuscripts have deteriorated because of over-usage and time. To make the restoration of these materials, a department is needed. So the Pathology and Restoration Department which had begun to be established in 2002 for the purpose of restoration and preservation of our written cultural heritages, was opened in 2005 and started restoration activities. The Restoration and conservation works have been carried out by five staff in the framework of using all kind of pathological methods. In the Pathology and Restoration Department, wet-dry cleaning of paper and leatherwork, deacidification, disinfection, removal of stains, pigment fixed, cleaning, strengthening, completing etc. works are done. Up to now eighteen rare manuscripts have been restored by five expert personnel. Improvements of the department in respect to equipment, place, number and education of personnel have been proceeding.

Projects

- *Digitization of Manuscripts and Old Turkish Periodicals*

This Project aims to transfer the original appearance and bibliographic records of the Manuscripts and rare works in the collection of National Library to the computer environment in order to protect and make them available for researchers. Within this scope, 26,906 numbers of manuscripts were digitized together with their catalogue records and are available on the web (www.yazmalar.gov.tr).

The digitalization of the Old Turkish Periodicals started in 2009. In total 1186 old Turkish periodicals with 2167 volumes have been digitized up to now. In addition, the full texts of 10,000 articles within periodicals are accessible on the web page <http://sureli.mk.gov.tr/>.

- *Transferring Manuscripts and Periodical Collection of the National Library into the Microform Environment*

This Project aims to transfer the manuscripts, rare books and periodicals to microform in order to save them from damage as a result of overuse and allow researchers to access these works via microform. Up to now, 8670 manuscripts have been transferred to microform. Moreover, 2300 Turkish newspapers and periodicals printed with Arab alphabet have been transferred to microform. Also, 14 Turkish newspapers published after 1928 have been transferred to microform.

- *National Library Additional Store Construction*

The repositories of the National Library are no longer meeting the needs as the collection is expanding continuously. So in addition to existing repositories, the construction of an underground triplex store building has been started. The repository is equipped with air-conditioners, security cameras, elevators and rail carriage systems aimed at protecting materials and put them into service underground by taking into consideration the current conditions, the types and number of material likely to increase rapidly in the future, and the extraordinary hazards (war, terror etc.).

- *Digitization of Non-Book Materials*

The digitization of non-book materials such as maps, posters, musical notes, sound and pictures has been started this year. We are planning to finalize digitization of the first part of the non-book materials and make them available on the web.

Cultural Activities

NLT has organized a cultural activity named “Poetry Days” with the collaboration of TURSAB. This activity has taken place on the last Friday of every month for three years. In every meeting, different Turkish Poets are presented and also their poems are recited.

Inter-library Co-Operation

The National Library has agreed on Cultural Exchange Programs with several countries within the context of its Cultural Exchange Program. The “Turkish National Bibliography” and “Bibliography of Articles in Turkish Periodicals prepared by NLT” are sent to different libraries, institutes of Oriental Studies and information centers in the other countries.

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