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Academic Librarianship in Turkey: The Historical Context

SERDAR KATIPOĞLU*

Abstract

This paper aims to present the historical development of academic libraries and librarianship in Turkey. It takes its starting point from the first years of the Republic and follows the reforms, improvements and setbacks in this field.

The Republic of Turkey was founded in 29 October 1923. In 1939, Hasan Ali Yücel, the celebrated early republican Minister of Education, claimed that cultural reforms achieved by Kemalist principles would guide and educate young generations of the present and the future. These reforms were also thought to be crucial for the emergence of a valuable and effective Turkish citizenship.¹

In this context, the government invited many experts in different academic fields from Europe and the United States. One of them was Prof. Dr. Albert Malche who was a professor of pedagogy in Geneva University in Switzerland. He was specifically called on to contribute to the Turkish University Reform of 1932.

Darülfünun was the first university established in Istanbul in the late Ottoman period. It was renamed as İstanbul Darülfünun in 1912, and in the

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¹ Hasan Ali Yücel, Foreword, Albert Malche, İSTANBUL ÜNİVERSİTESİ HAKKINDA RAPOR, İstanbul: Devlet Basımevi, 1939. P. 301. See also, Doğan Atılğan, "Türkiye'de Üniversite Kütüphanelerinin Tarihi," TÜRK KÜTÜPHANECİLİĞİ 22 (4) (2008): 451-458.

same year a special law on higher education was released specifically for this institution. Thus, it obtained academic and administrative freedom.²

Prof. Dr. Albert Malche completed a report on Istanbul Darülfunun and presented his work on May 29, 1932. The government took Malche's report seriously, and under additional reform acts, Istanbul Darülfunun was closed on July 31, 1933. However, the institution was reopened the very next day on August 1, 1933, as a modern university which came to be known as Istanbul University. Now it has the largest student enrollment in Turkey.

In his report, Malche analyzed and investigated the conditions of İstanbul Darülfunun and offered a detailed alternative proposal which discussed every institutional unit of the new university, including the library. First of all, he criticized the availability of books, because readers were not allowed to borrow books from the library. At the same time he emphasized the existence of three kinds of libraries: Faculty Libraries, Institute Libraries and Seminar Libraries. In his report, Malche observed that the Medical Library had an extremely poor collection; on the other hand the Law Library had a rich collection.

In spite of duplication problems and a lack of coordination between libraries, Malche mentioned the adequate level of acquisitions and the significance of the Central Library which in 1928 had a large collection of 109,387 volumes.³ A Turkish librarian whose name was F.E. Karatay was the head librarian at that time.⁴ He was sent to Paris, to the Ecole des Chartes School of Archives and Librarianship in 1925. But, he found himself another school which had a one year long librarianship program. Karatay preferred to focus on librarianship instead of archive work. This school followed an American-style curriculum. After his graduation, Karatay came back to Istanbul University as head librarian. During his administration he completed the card catalog which used the decimal system as well as the alphabetical order.⁵

² Ernst E. Hirsch, *Dünya üniversiteleri ve Türkiye'de üniversitelerin gelişmesi*, Ankara: Ankara Üniversitesi, 1998.

³ Albert Malche, *İSTANBUL ÜNİVERSİTESİ HAKKINDA RAPOR*, İstanbul: Devlet Basımevi, 1939.

⁴ Leman Şenalp, *İSTANBUL ÜNİVERSİTESİ MERKEZ KÜTÜPHANESİ:BAŞLANGICINDAN GÜNÜMÜZE*, Ankara: Türk Kütüphaneciler Derneği, 2001.

⁵ Ethem Fehmi Karatay, "Hayatımdan parçalar," *TÜRK KÜTÜPHENECİLİĞİ* 17 (2) (1968):73-74.

Albert Malche approved the existence of three kinds of libraries and he advised that their services be continued. Moreover, he regarded The Central Library as a good model for the other libraries. He suggested that the Library hours should be extended, and they should apply a circulation policy for book lending. Another one of his suggestions was about preparing a union catalog which would include all bibliographic descriptions in the Central Library and even bibliographic descriptions in other libraries.

Malche's report also had an interesting aspect: "kütüphane" (which means the house of books, that is, "library" in Turkish), became "kütüpane" in the Turkish version of Malche's report. The change in the spelling and pronunciation of the word can be related to the influences of the Turkish alphabet revolution which took place on November 3, 1928. This was the first time the word "kütüpane" was used.

After the start of the Second World War, the Turkish government invited scientists who lost their positions in Germany to continue their studies in Turkey. Seventy academics from the areas of social and positive sciences arrived. It was a new period in the country's academic life because the long-lasting French influence on higher education system was diminished and a German influence established itself in Turkish academia.⁶

Another charismatic person in this reform period was Prof. Dr. Ernst E. Hirsch who made a great contribution to the establishment of the Faculty of Law in Ankara University. He worked and studied in Istanbul University Faculty of Law between the years 1933 and 1942, and at Ankara University Faculty of Law between 1943 and 1952.

During his academic life in Turkey, Hirsch wrote a book on improving the country's university system. The book, titled *WORLD UNIVERSITIES AND DEVELOPMENT OF UNIVERSITIES IN TURKEY*, was completed in 1946 and published in 1950. It was a two-volume book that included detailed meeting notes and regulations. He also cited Malche's report.

His book also comprised discussions and proceedings about "university libraries," emphasized the significant need to establish a National

⁶ Fritz Neumark, "Türk üniversitelerine Alman beyin göçü," *CUMHURİYET DÖNEMİ TÜRKİYE ANSIKLOPEDİSİ* v.3, İstanbul: İletişim Yayınları, (1983): 654-655.

Library and demanded the provision of a special law for the education and training of Turkish librarians.⁷

Hirsch criticized an issue in Malche's report regarding the Law Library. Malche pointed out the poor circumstances of the Medical Library and praised the conditions of Law Library in Istanbul University. However, according to Hirsch, the books in the Law Library were old fashioned records from the Ottoman period and written in the Ottoman alphabet. In other words, they were outdated resources for Hirsch.

For similar reasons, in 1934 Istanbul University's Academic Board of Professors appointed Hirsche to work towards the establishment of a new Law Library in conjunction with the needs of the Faculty of Law. The Board supplied an adequate budget, but there were no librarians. So Hirsche himself, along with his young Turkish law assistants, started book acquisitions and then cataloged all the new books. They designed their own classification system and subject headings. This library was run successfully by Hirsche and his assistants.

Hirsche's contributions were not limited to these efforts. He also prepared the Turkish Law Bibliography for the period between 1934 and 1940, which is the first serious study in the realm of law bibliography.⁸ This bibliography was first published in 1940 in the Journal of Faculty of Law, and later it was published as a reference book by the Istanbul University Faculty of Law Press in 1941.⁹

Another German professor influential in the development of Turkish libraries was Gerhard Kessler. He was a professor at Istanbul University. He founded the library for the Institute of Economics and Social Sciences in 1937. The collection had more than 50,000 books. Professor Kessler classified and cataloged the books in this library as a volunteer.

Walter Gottschalk was specially invited, as a librarian, to work in Istanbul University Libraries. He was there between 1941 and 1954. He previously worked at the Prussia State Library. Gottschalk was responsible for the coordination of the libraries at I.U. He also consulted for the public

⁷ Ernst E. Hirsch, ANILARIM: KAYZER DÖNEMİ WEIMAR CUMHURİYETİ ATATÜRK ÜLKESİ, Ankara: TÜBİTAK, 1997.

⁸ Hirsch, Ernst E., "Türk Hukuk Bibliyografyası: 1934-1940", İSTANBUL ÜNİVERSİTESİ HUKUK FAKÜLTESİ DERGİSİ, vol.6, 1940, pp. 860-992.

⁹ Id., 860-992, vol.6.

libraries in İzmir and Bursa. Other librarians who worked in the university reform period were Sonnia Tiedche at I.U., Josef Stummvol and Max Pfannenstell at Ankara University.¹⁰

Foreign academic support for Turkish library development was not limited to the contributions of European scholars. In the 1950s, the support given by American experts are also worthy of mention. The director of Kentucky University Libraries and Special Consultant of US Libraries, Dr. Lawrence E. Thompson, prepared a report about all Turkish Libraries in February 1952, which was directly offered to the Ministry of National Education.

In his report, Thompson advised the establishment of a School of Library Science in one or two high ranking universities in Turkey. He suggested that two young librarians should be sent to the United States to get advanced education in librarianship. They were to be trained as library directors for the future.¹¹ However, the foundation of a Turkish Librarianship Department would not be realized until the 1960s.

In 1963, Professor Dr. Rudolf Juchhoff founded the Department of Librarianship at Istanbul University.¹² Intellectual support provided by Prof. Juchhoff was invaluable. In a conference speech at Ege University in October 1967 he suggested that library buildings should be placed in the middle of the university campus at an almost equal distance from each faculty building. Ege University was still under construction in 1967 and another three campus universities –Black Sea Technical University in Trabzon, Ataturk University in Erzurum and Middle East Technical University in Ankara- were ready to organize themselves in the same manner. Ankara University had to develop a different approach to placement of its library because this institution had multiple and dispersed faculty buildings in different parts of Ankara.¹³

Since the mid-1960s, Turkish academic circles paid attention not only to the needs and requirements of university libraries, but also to interrelated

¹⁰ Ayşe Üstün, “Üniversite reformu (1933) Alman bilim adamları ve bilgi hizmetleri alanına katkıları” AYSEL YONTAR ARMAĞANI İÇİNDE (11-35). yay. haz. Bekir Kemal Ataman, Mesut Yalvaç, İstanbul: Türk Kütüphaneciler Derneği, 2004.

¹¹ S. Thompson Lawrence, “Türkiye’de Kütüphaneleri Geliştirme Programı,” 4 ve 5 Şubat 1952 tarihinde Milli Eğitim Bakanlığına sunulmuştur. TÜRK KÜTÜPHANECİLER DERNEĞİ BÜLTENİ 1 (2) (1952):85-100.

¹² Üstün, *supra*.

¹³ Rudolf Juchhoff, *Üniversite Kütüphaneleri*, Bornova: Ege Üniversitesi Matbaası, 1968.

subjects about these institutions, from the demands of central campus universities to the location of university libraries.

Between the 1950s and mid-1970s, important campus universities were constructed in Turkey. This was a significant development which was conducive to taking even architectural styles of university libraries into the agenda of the higher education system. The library of Middle East Technical University, a product of serious planning and organization, is a good example of this important architectural consideration.

Open Stack Library LC Classification System

An open stacks policy and the LC classification system was first used in METU library.¹⁴ The first four library directors were appointed by UNESCO. In 1963, Behruz Çinici, an architect, was sent to the United States to do research on university library buildings. The METU library building he designed, pictured below, has been an enduring inspiration.



University Law, which was accepted in 1946, gave only semi-autonomy to Turkish universities. The Ministry of National Education was responsible for these institutions. The law was amended in October 27, 1960 and Turkish universities gained intellectual and administrative freedom.¹⁵

The third revised edition of the union catalog of periodicals in Ankara was published in 1977. This edition is an important touchstone in the development of Turkish librarianship because it was the first computer-based

¹⁴ METU Library, *Bauen und Wohnen* 10(1973) pp.424-427.

¹⁵ Mete Tunçay, "YÖK," *CUMHURİYET DÖNEMİ TÜRKİYE ANSİKLOPEDİSİ* v.3, İstanbul : İletişim Yayınları, (1983): 680-682.

design and publication of the union catalog and it had a computerized output. This computer output of the union catalog included 14,607 titles.

In 1981 the Higher Education Law was amended yet again. The Council of Higher Education (CHE) was founded by this law and all Turkish universities were taken under the strict supervision of this council.¹⁶ The establishment of such an authoritative institution which was seen as a challenge to the scientific and administrative autonomy of the universities created great controversy in intellectual circles of the country. The basic reasoning behind the foundation of this council was to create a centralized university system in which all universities can be supervised and controlled by an official center, both in terms of academic production and administration. In other words, the spirit of this law (no. 2547) was centralization.

Nilüfer Tuncer criticized the dispersed existence of Department, Institute and Faculty libraries. For her, these three branches resulted in the overlapping of library materials, and more importantly, caused inefficient use of financial resources.¹⁷

Since the 1980s two important implementations about university libraries were put into practice:

1. In terms of library administration, the title of “University Library” was abandoned and “Library and Documentation Directorate” was adopted as the institutional title. Instead of the administrative title of *Library Director*, *Library President* was preferred. This structural style is still operational.
2. CHE Documentation Center was established in 1984. The Documentation Center had 13,250 journals and series, but no books. The services of literature search and photocopying were provided. Authorized users, as members of Turkish academia, could get all dissertations written since 1987, and they could request a copy of academic articles free of charge, that is, copies could be posted to their own libraries.

¹⁶ Ahmet Çelik, “University Libraries in Turkey: a state of the art review,” *INFORMATION DEVELOPMENT* 17 (85) (2001): 85-92.

¹⁷ Nilüfer Tuncer, “Üniversite kütüphanelerinin merkezileştirilmesi konusunda yükseköğretim kurulu’nun görüşü ve yükseköğretim kurulu dokümantasyon merkezi,” *TÜRK KÜTÜPHANECİLİĞİ* 2 (1983): 69-72.

Another significant development at this time concerns the electronic connection to library records and resources. A system called *Dialogue* was implemented and gave access to the Internet, and it also searched resources electronically.¹⁸ Under supervision of CHE, ILL services were initiated among university libraries. CHE Documentation Center started to collect and classify masters theses and dissertations from universities in 1987. In 2006 they started to collect the online version of all theses.

First Foundation University

In the late 1980s, one important factor which influenced changes in the social justification of libraries can be related to the emergence of private universities. Bilkent University, the first private, non-profit university in Turkey, was founded on October 20, 1984, and its first class matriculated there in 1986. The establishment of this private university was later approved by an act of Parliament. In 1993, Koç University was established by Koç Holding, one of the largest corporations in Turkey. These two private universities exemplified the initiatives of privatization of higher education. Their successes encouraged other entrepreneurs who are committed to the development of university education.

ISIS (İstanbul School of International Studies) was founded in 1994. This institution signed an agreement with Portsmouth University and LSE. Initially, 400 students were enrolled. After a short period, ISIS was degraded as a "Pirate University" by the idiosyncratic language of media journalism, which has also resulted in tension with the bureaucratic units. Conflict and ambiguity were resolved by the parliament. ISIS became Istanbul Bilgi University, which was legally recognized and the decision was approved by the Turkish National Assembly in 1996. By the same parliamentary decision, Sabancı University was established by Sabancı Holding.

Koç and Sabancı universities are campus universities. Both of them have large and contemporary central library buildings. These buildings were designed by two different American architectural design companies. This situation can be seen as the continuation of American influence on Turkish higher education.

On-line Higher Education in Turkey

¹⁸ Nilüfer Tuncer, "Belge sağlayan kuruluşlar: YÖK Dokümantasyon Merkezi ve BLDSC," TÜRK KÜTÜPHANECİLİĞİ, 11 (2) (1988): 51-60.

Bilgi e-MBA at Istanbul Bilgi University is the first online and web based graduate degree program in business administration in Turkey.¹⁹ It is fully accredited by the Turkish Council of Higher Education Bilgi e-MBA and is designed specifically to meet the contemporary needs of the business world in the strategic arena.

Istanbul Bilgi's E-MBA program started in 2000 with an enrollment of 35 students. In this academic year (2008-2009) it has an enrollment of 1000 students.²⁰ Istanbul Bilgi's University Library designed and constructed an on-line library for this e-MBA program. The National Informatics Committee of CHE approved this e-library project. It was the first online library in Turkey approved by this Committee. This has served as an example to other universities. Today eight universities have similar distance programs.

As 44% of the Turkish population is under 25, there is a big demand for higher education in Turkey. This demand drives the authorities to open new state and foundation universities and provide higher education for more young people.²¹ For example, there were 73 universities in Turkey in 1999; but, this number doubled to 139 in 2009.

Influence Globalisation Higher Education System

Laureate Education, Inc. signed an agreement with Istanbul Bilgi University in 2008. Laureate's university network includes 45 accredited institutions from 20 countries in North America, Latin America, Europe, and Asia. Istanbul Bilgi University strategically focuses on online education for working adults and vocational schools for the young population nationwide. In this context, online librarianship once again gains importance.

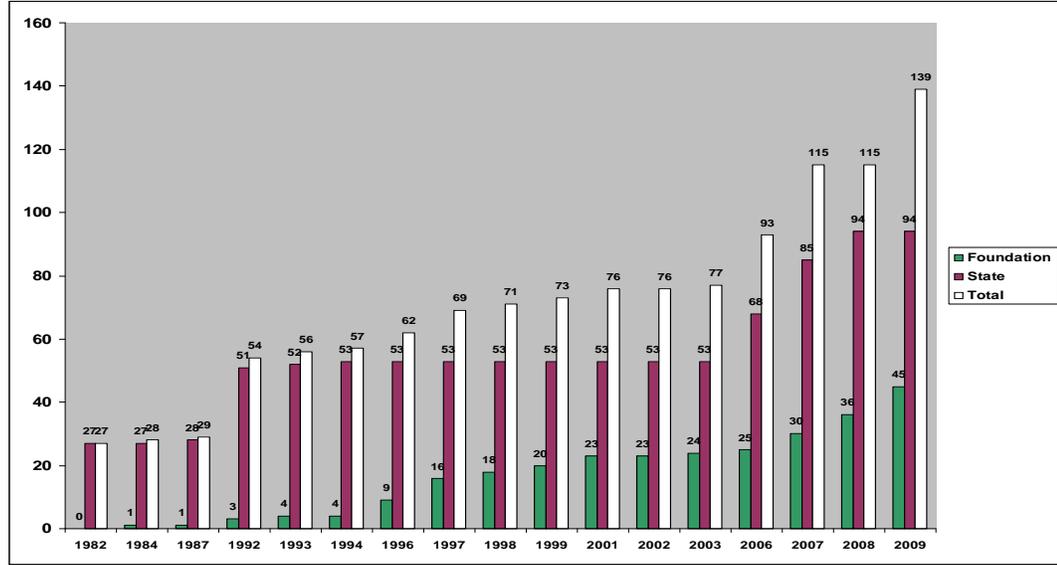
Today, the Council of Higher Education controls 94 state universities, 45 foundation universities, 5 vocational schools, 5 military schools, 1 police academy, 5 universities in Northern Cyprus, and 2 universities having a special status in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.²²

¹⁹ Istanbul Bilgi University e-MBA, <http://www.bilgiemba.net/en/index.html> (last visited September 28, 2009).

²⁰ <http://www.bilgiemba.net/en/index.html>.

²¹ Ayhan Kaygusuz, "Universities and University Libraries in Turkey," *LIBER QUARTERLY* 18 (3/ 4) (2008): 480-492.

²² YÖK, http://www.yok.gov.tr/content/view/527/222/lang,tr_TR/ (accessed September 30, 2009).

Figure 1: Growth in Numbers at State and Foundation Universities²³Table 1: Increases between number of libraries, books and non-book materials at university libraries²⁴

Yıl-Year	University Libraries		
	Number of libraries	books	non-book materials
1998	-	-	-
1999	-	-	-
2000	-	-	-
2001	-	-	-
2002	199	6,017,934	615,194
2003	221	6,449,641	672,700
2004	242	7,087,667	713,838
2005	275	8,073,808	814,094
2006	277	8,043,531	895,545
2007	320	8,565,905	1,027,755

²³ Kaynak: http://yogm.meb.gov.tr/turkuniv_yay%C4%B1n.htm.

²⁴ See, TSI: Turkish Statistical Institute Cultural Statistics, CD-ROM, Ankara, 2007.

Table 2: Library materials at the end of the year 2007, including books, bound periodicals, electronic books, and theses²⁵

Total	13,518,584
State University Libraries	11,272,085
Foundation University Libraries	2,246,499

Table 3: Number of personnel, registered members at the university libraries²⁶

Year	University Libraries	
	Registered Users	Library Personnel
1998	-	-
1999	-	-
2000	-	-
2001	-	-
2002	717,256	3,780
2003	650,365	3,090
2004	905,732	3,057
2005	1,158,912	3,431
2006	1,119,258	3,421
2007	1,104,177	3,729

Table 4: Level of education of staff²⁷

	Total	Primary school	Primary education, junior high school	High school	Library science at university level	Other higher educational institutions
Total	729	58	108	1707	1001	855
State	259	54	102	1521	892	690
Foundation	70	4	6	186	109	165

Library Automation Systems in University Libraries

In 1993, the first Turkish library automation system, BLISS based on UNIX started to run at Bilkent University Library. In 1995 first foreign library

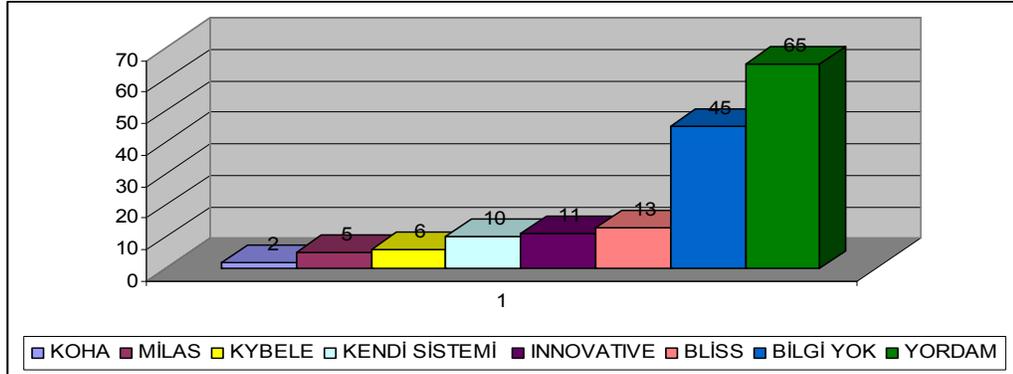
²⁵ Id.

²⁶ Id.

²⁷ Id.

automation system VTLIS was installed in METU Library. From 1993 to 2009 number of automation systems sharply increased. In 2009, 157 fully integrated systems are running at university libraries in Turkey. The table below illustrates the growth of these systems at Turkish libraries.

Figure 2: Library Automation Systems



Consortium - ANKOS

ANKOS was established in 2000 with 12 member libraries and three database subscriptions. Thanks to ANKOS, faculty members at universities all over Turkey, as well as the staff of some research institutions, now have access to bibliographic and full-text databases. ANKOS holds an Annual Meeting attended by all ANKOS librarians and data base companies.

ANKOS is a member of various consortia. These are the International Coalition of Library Consortia (ICOLC), the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC), the Southern European Libraries Link (SELL), and the international initiative COUNTER (Counting Online Usage of Networked Electronic Resources).

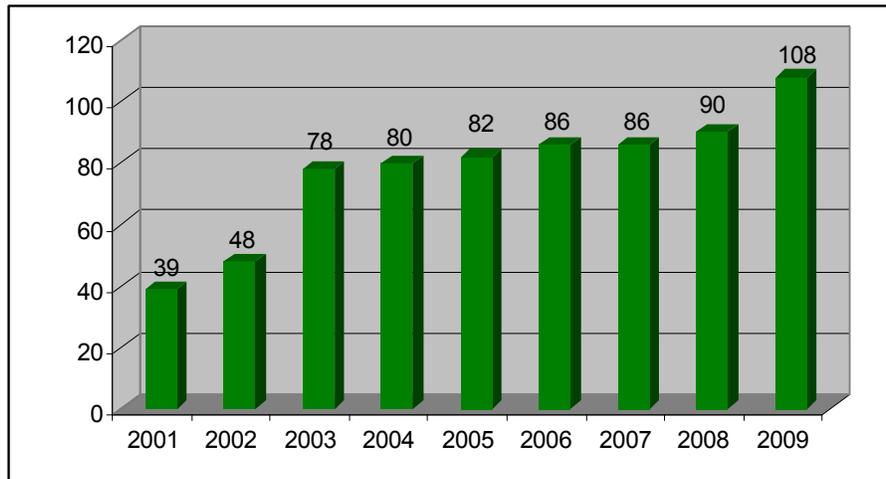
The former managers of ANKOS determined another supplementary mission by saying “[i]n the light of the successes of the first 10 years of ANKOS, we believe that it should continue to develop its role in providing professional training and developing skills, in addition to acquiring electronic Resources.”²⁸ ANKOS made a large contribution to increase the scientific

²⁸ Phyllis Erdogan, Bülent Karasözen, “Portrait of a Consortium: ANKOS (Anatolian University Libraries Consortium),” *THE JOURNAL OF ACADEMIC LIBRARIANSHIP* 35 (4) (2009): 377–385.

publication rate by Turkish scientists at the international level.²⁹ In the long run, ANKOS is aiming to be an independent association.

In 2008 a group of librarians designed a new ILL automation system and service for university libraries nation-wide. It is called KİTS. This group and system is working as a part ANKOS.

Figure 3: ANKOS members



²⁹ Bülent Karasözen, Ayhan Kaygusuz, Hacer (Bati) Özen, "Patterns of e-journal use within the Anatolian University Library Consortium," *SERIALS* 20 (1) (2007):37-42.

Figure 4: ANKOS license agreements with publishers (2001-2009) for 63 databases

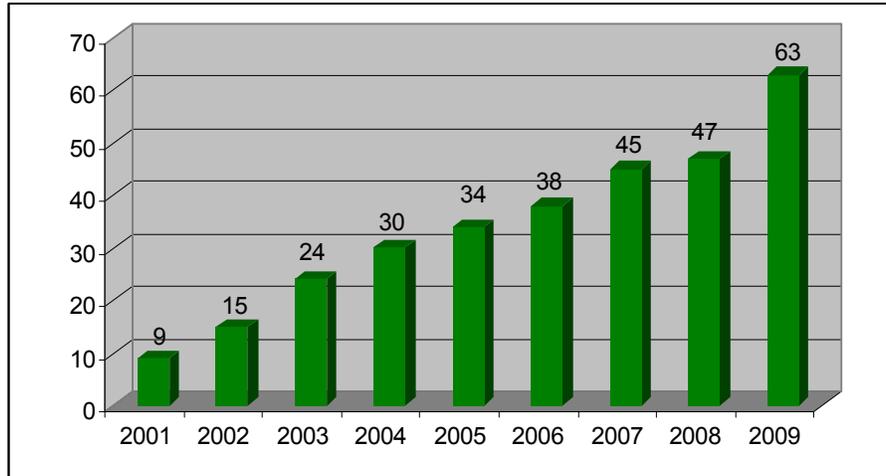
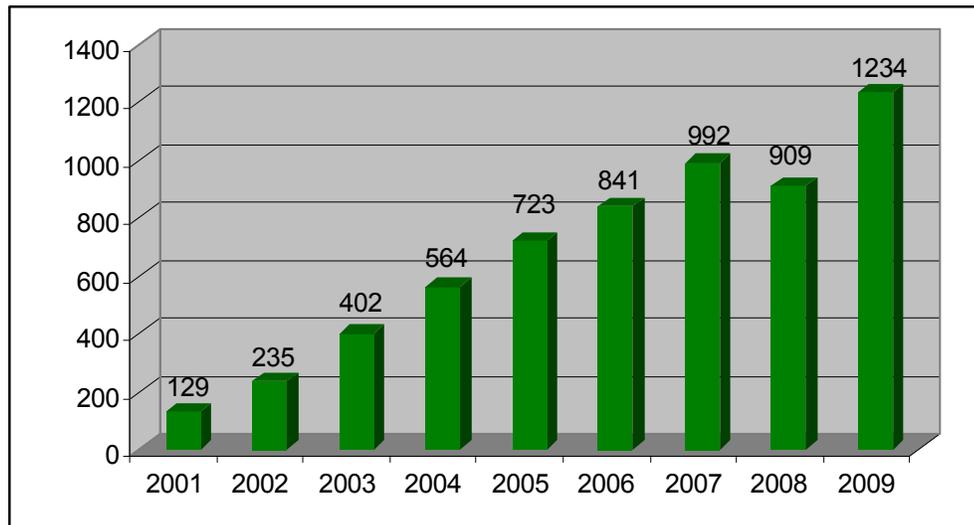


Figure 5: Libraries subscribed to the databases (2001-2009)³⁰



³⁰ Sami Çukadar, Emre Akbayrak, Burcu Bulut, "Country Report Turkey," 9th SELL Meeting, Izmir Institute of Technology Library, May 18-21, 2009, Available: <http://www.heal-link.gr/SELL/9thmeeting.htm> (accessed September 30, 2009).

State Initiative - ULAKBİM

ULAKBİM, the Turkish Academic Network and Information Center, is a body of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK). ULAKBİM created EKUAL. EKUAL signed an agreement with various database companies and then opened these databases to libraries free of charge. It has offered 20 full-text and bibliographic academic databases since March 2008. EKUAL pays for national site licenses. The significance of EKUAL lies in its structure. It is not a consortium but an independent state organization. At present, 180 institutions across the country, including 126 universities, 6 military institutions, 53 Training and Research Hospitals and TÜBİTAK are getting Access to databases provided by EKUAL.

ULAKBİM Databases

ULAKBİM started to design and produce national databases in various scientific fields in the 1990s.³¹ These are Turkish Medical Database, Turkish Life Sciences Database, Turkish Social Sciences Database, Turkish Engineering and Basic Sciences Database. These databases contain articles published in different languages in Turkish scholarly journals. ULAKBİM TO-KAT, the national union library catalog, with the same interface, was opened for researchers and faculty in April of 2009. The process is still is going on. This is another mission for Ulakbim.

Library Associations

The Turkish Librarians' Association was founded in 1949 and the University and Research Librarians' Association (ÜNAK) was established in 1991. ÜNAK has 630 members and itself is a member of LIBER. "Information World" is an academic librarianship journal. It has been published by ÜNAK since 2000. This journal is covered by citation index ÜNAK and OCLC consortium for OCLC cataloging products. The Turkish Librarians' Association is an organizer of Turkey's Library Week. Every year, the last week of March is observed as National Library Week.

International Dimensions

³¹ ULAKBİM, <http://www.ulakbim.gov.tr/eng/cabim/kat/> (last visited September 30, 2009).

The 1995 IFLA conference was held in Istanbul. In 2003, the IATUL (International Association of Technological University Libraries) conference was held at the Middle East Technical University (ODTÜ). And, the 2008 Annual General Conference of LIBER was hosted by Koç University. The European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA), Executive Committee meeting convened in Istanbul on 31 March 2009. There was a joint seminar with university librarians from İstanbul at İstanbul Bilgi University in 2009. Of course, IALL in 2009 brings us all here once again. This conference will greatly benefit academic librarianship, especially law librarianship, in Turkey.