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The Turkish Librarians Association

The aim of the paper is to give an introductory information about the Turkish Librarians Association (TLA) which is the oldest and largest librarians association in Turkey. Main topics are items on the mission, vision, structure and professional ethical principles of the TLA.

Der türkische Bibliothekarsverband

Dieser Beitrag vermittelt einen einleitenden Überblick über den türkischen Bibliothekarsverband (TLA), den ältesten und größten Bibliothekarsverband in der Türkei. Hauptthemen sind Informationen über die Aufgaben, Vision, Struktur und die ethischen Berufsgrundsätze des TLA.

L'Association turque des bibliothécaires

Cette communication présente un survol introductif sur l'Association turque des bibliothécaires (TLA), la plus ancienne et la plus importante en Turquie. Les sujets sont des informations concernant les tâches, les vision, la structure et les bases éthiques professionnelles.

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1. A brief history

Turkish Librarians Association, TLA, was founded on 19th of November 1949 under the leadership of Adnan Ötügen who was also founder of the Turkish National Library. The aim of the association was to gather the librarians into a professional organisation within which they could consult one another and discuss their problems, work together to find solutions, and ensure friendship and solidarity between them. After the formation of TLA librarians had a professional organisation and thus librarianship made a huge leap forward to becoming a credible and significant career.

In its early years the Association commenced activities in Ankara only. On June 3rd 1961 following a change in regulations it had an opportunity to open branches in the provinces and villages across the nation. After 26 years, the 26th of February 1975 saw TLA acquire the status of a public-service organisation. In terms of aim and function of its work, the first dramatic transformation came in 1983 as reformed policies significantly reduced limitations upon the organisation. This broadened the TLA beyond libraries to include areas such as archiving and documentation of scientific research. Hence another big step forward had been made in the bringing together of subjects under a single administrative body. TLA has 25 branches in all Turkey, now.

In 1996 the general committee met and established a code of professional ethics of which all members were informed. The same meeting gave rise to the creation of an ongoing group entrusted with researching various subjects connected to the profession.

The organization first published the *Turkish Librarians Association Bulletin* (TLAB) in 1952, three years after it had been founded, and so began the fulfilment of its aim of informing a diverse cross-section of society about the science of information and archiving through the implementation of empirical studies and professional publications. In 1987 the magazine changed its name to *Türk Kütüphaneciliği* and is still reaching its readers with a new edition every three months. *Türk Kütüphaneciliği* is one of the thirty longest running magazines still published in the world, and in 1994 was recognized as such on the international platform, being indexed in *LISA (Library and Information Science Abstracts)* as a significant bibliographic source. From 2004 onward the magazine *TK* is created by TUBITAK-ULAKBIM and included in ULAKBIM Social Sciences Database, which catalogues the national literature. In 1999 the magazine was first published on

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the internet and is available for members and all users on the TLA website.

The organisation continues its work with a contemporary and enlightened approach, continuing to grow with branches all over the country, and following international developments closely.

2. Mission and vision of the TLA

- To inform a diverse cross-section of society about the science of information and archiving through the implementation of empirical studies and professional publications.
- To maintain within society an awareness of the importance of information and documentation services, which are currently very well organised.
- To educate about the role of staff within the profession and the contribution made to the development of society by those who enter the profession.
- To ensure solidarity and harmony between colleagues.
- To uphold professional ethical principles.
- To join the global effort by cooperating with national and international foundations associated with librarianship and related fields.
- To lead in the search for solutions to problems relevant to information centres.

Vision:

- To lead the world of librarianship in archiving and cooperative work and operate within the broader information and documentation services.

TLA has been celebrating a Library Week in Turkey since 1964.

3. The structure of the TLA

The Turkish Librarians Association is a professional organisation which works for the public benefit. The Turkish Librarians Association is formed of (a) Head Office (b) Local branches; of which there are two types.

Head Office is constituted by

- Executive Committee
- Inquiry Committee
- Executive Managers Committee
- Executive Supervisor Committee
- Head Honours Committee
- Continuous Groups.

The TLA Head Committee is determined in Ankara every two years between the months of July and September. Head Committee and Managers Committee members are chosen by election. The Head Office Managers Committee is formed of the following members:

- TLA Management Committee Executive Chairman
- Assistant of Publisher Executive Chairman
- Assistant of Organization Executive Chairman
- Assistant of Continuous Groups Executive Chairman
- Accountant
- Secretary
- Pay-Office Member
- International Relations Member
- Media and Public Relations Member.

Detailed information about the organisation structure and the Head Office Management Committee is on our website, which can be accessed by clicking on the „TLA Executive Board”.

4. Sources of income of the TLA

The organisation receives income through; monthly payments from local branches, publishing income, exhibitions, lectures, concerts, lottery, food sales, etc. The income from these activities goes primarily to donations, projects and advertising.

5. Professional ethical principles of the TLA

As TLA established the Professional Principles in 1996 and all members of the organisation accept and uphold these principles, they are given here for the attention of information sector workers:

- Respect for the Universal Human Rights Declaration and other international agreements defending the freedom of information for every individual in society and the maintenance of this at all costs.
- Attaining professional power through scientific attainment.
- Scientific users must respect equality in pursuit of scientific attainment without any assistance afforded or denied on the basis of race, language, religion, gender, social status, or divergence of views.
- One must contribute to the profession by offering all information accurately and in full. This ensures the respect of the individual within the administration and society.
- Respecting and protecting the copyrights of producers.
- Information sought from individuals must be correct and private details kept confidential.
- All information required and supplied has to be respected as private and remain confidential.
- Staff members of the organisation are not permitted to make false or derogatory claims regarding the profession or to indulge in such behaviours or inflammatory speculation which may reflect negatively upon the information centre.
- One should avoid such actions which might serve to damage the organisation in terms of reputation and rights.
- One should serve the organisation's aims.
- Not abusing the profession or responsibilities undertaken for the sake of personal gain.
- One should endeavour to act according to the principles.

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