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Education for information management in Turkey

The courses, the training programmes and the education on university level can be applied to the education of librarians. Every year, nearly 300 students are accepted to the five departments for undergraduate studies with four years of information management education. Departments of Information Management in Turkey have productive and dynamic structures. They train students to become qualified experts in librarianship which are urgently needed in Turkey.

Die Ausbildung zum Informationsmanager in der Türkei

Die Lehrveranstaltungen, das Ausbildungsprogramm und der Unterricht auf Universitätsniveau findet Anwendung bei der Ausbildung von Bibliothekaren. Jedes Jahr werden fast 300 Studenten in die fünf Fachbereiche für das Studium bis zum Bachelorabschluss der Informationsmanagementausbildung aufgenommen. Die Fachbereiche für Informationsmanagement in der Türkei haben leistungsfähige und dynamische Strukturen. Sie bilden Studenten zu qualifizierten Experten im Bibliothekswesen aus, die in der Türkei dringend benötigt werden.

La formation pour le management d'information en Turquie

Les cours, les programmes de formation et l'éducation au niveau universitaire peuvent être appliqués pour la formation des bibliothécaires. Tous les ans, à peu près 300 étudiants sont reçus dans les cinq départements pour les études de quatre années de formation en management d'information. Les départements de management d'information disposent de structures productives et dynamiques en Turquie. Les étudiants deviennent des experts qualifiés de bibliothèques dont la Turquie a un besoin urgent.

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1. Introduction

The Republic of Turkey is a modern and secular state founded by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in 1923, after the Independence War. There are 81 cities in seven geographic regions of Turkey with a population of 71 million people. Turkey has lands both in Asia and Europe. Nearly 15 % of the population is made up by the young between the 15-24 years of age (DİE, 2004).

The data for the formal education in Turkey is illustrated on Table 1.

The desired levels in pre-school education and higher education cannot be achieved at present. The schooling rate is about 99 % in primary education. It can be remarked that there is a trouble in the number of teaching staff and the quality of higher education.

2. The history of information management in Turkey

It can be asserted that the attempts at librarianship education in Turkey started after the foundation of the Republic. The courses, in-service training programmes and the

Table 1: The data for the formal education in Turkey

Education Degree	Number of Schools (2006)	Number of Pupils (2006)	Number of Teachers (2006)
Pre-school Education (3-6 years)	20 675	640 849	24 775
Primary Education (1 st -8 th grades)	34 656	10 846 930	402 829
Secondary Education (9 th -12 th grades)	7 934	3 386 717	187 665
Higher Education	93	2 342 898	84 785

Sources: <http://sgb.meb.gov.tr/istatistik/meb_istatistikleri_orgun_egitim_2006_2007.pdf>, <http://www.tuik.gov.tr/yillik/lst_gostergeler.pdf>, <<http://www.yok.gov.tr/universiteler/universiteler.htm>>

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education on the university level can be mentioned concerning the education of the librarians (Atılğan 1995). In the beginning, such attempts were generally based on the reports written on the educational structure of Turkey by the experts coming from abroad and assessing the libraries and the librarians. The reports prepared by John Dewey in 1924 (Dewey 1939) and by Hellmut Ritter in 1935 (Artukoğlu 1979) received attention with their suggestions about educating the librarians. In both reports, it is underlined that educating librarians is crucial, therefore, there should be courses on librarianship in teacher-training schools, some people should be sent abroad and the librarianship courses should be opened in Turkey.

In accordance with the suggestions written in these reports, some people were sent abroad including Adnan Ötüken who would found the Turkish National Library later on. During this process, the courses on the education of the librarians were started to be opened. Especially the practical courses opened by Fehmi Ethem Karatay, Josef Stummwoll and Adnan Ötüken are noteworthy. The mentioned courses became effective on the Institute of Librarianship that would be founded later on (Özel 2007; Atılğan 1995). The first department of librarianship in Turkey was opened at Ankara University in 1952, by the help of Lawrence S. Thompson's report at the beginning of the 1950s, and started its education with the supports of Fulbright and Ford Foundation.

The second department of librarianship was opened at İstanbul University in 1964, by the help of Rudolf Juchhoff. And the third department was opened at Ankara Hacettepe University in 1972. In all three departments, the programmes conducted under one division were revised in 1984, and divided into three divisions as „Librarianship,” „Documentation and Information” and „Archive Studies”, and started to be applied in 1989. The department of Archive Studies at İstanbul Marmara University and Department of Librarianship at Erzurum Atatürk University were opened in 1987 and 1994 respectively. Librarianship programmes, divided into three divisions beforehand, were transferred to a department again under the name of Department of Information Management in 2002. The same year, another Department of Information Management was founded at Ankara Başkent University which is a foundation university (Çakın 1997; 2000; 2005). In short, there are six departments in Turkey giving librarianship education on the university level.

3. The current situation of education for information management in Turkey

The right for having university education in Turkey can be gained through a central nation-wide exam organized annually by the Turkish Council of Higher Education Student Selection and Placement Centre (YÖK). At present, the departments giving librarianship education on the university level are:

- Ankara University, Department of Information Management – Ankara (State)
- İstanbul University, Department of Information Management – İstanbul (State)
- Hacettepe University, Department of Information Management – Ankara (State)
- Marmara University, Department of Information Management – İstanbul (State)

- Başkent University, Department of Information Management – Ankara (Private/ Foundation).

Every year, nearly 300 students are accepted to these departments for undergraduate studies with four years of education. However the department at Hacettepe University requires five years to complete undergraduate studies because of the education for a year in the English Preparatory School. At Marmara University, there is only an Archive Studies division. There are nearly 250-300 students graduating annually from the departments mentioned above. The graduates generally find jobs at public, school or university libraries, parliament library, official organizations libraries (such as Central Bank, State Planning Organization, Turkish Statistical Institute etc), state and private archives, archives of the companies, centers for library and documentation, computer sector, software companies, and research and development units of the organizations. Yet, it can be asserted that there is a problem at finding a job.

Beside undergraduate studies, there are also masters (two years) and doctoral (four years) programmes in these departments. The courses given in these departments are generally the same. There are compulsory and elective courses in the programmes. Among the undergraduate courses are Organization of Knowledge, Information Sources and Services, Computer and Internet, Research Methods, Introduction to Psychology, Introduction to Philosophy, User Groups, Databases, Programming, Communication, System Analysis, Web Designing, Management of Information Technology, Library Types, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Ottoman, Marketing, Professional Ethic, Information Literacy, Information Policy, System Analyses, Abstracting and Indexing, and Practicum. In the master's programmes, there are courses such as Project Management, Information Architecture, Electronic Information Services, Reading Habits, Children's Literature, Standards in Information Management, User Studies, Archival Systems and Archival Studies, Quality System Documentation, Management of Information Centres, Information Organization. In the doctoral programmes, some of the courses can be listed as Intellectual Freedom, Information Retrieval Theory, Bibliometrics, Economics of Information, Information Policy, Libraries and Archives in the Cultural History of Anatolia, Cataloging Systems, Information and Society, Information Seeking Behavior, and Digital Libraries. The teaching programmes are frequently revised according to the international developments. There are also foreign students (generally coming from the Middle East, Central Asia and the Balkans) registered to undergraduate, masters and doctoral programmes. The departments have the necessary technological equipment. There are computer laboratories with available internet connection used by the students.

Especially in recent years, the departments exchange students and the teaching staff through Erasmus programme. Moreover, the teaching staff conducts national and international projects, and takes charge in the projects conducted by different institutions (such as The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey –TÜBİTAK-, NATO, UNESCO, PULMAN Projects). The departments also perform collective works with some official and civil institutions like Turkish Librarians Association, University and Research Librarians Association, General Directorate for Libraries and Publications. The departments

support the National Library Week programme and in-service training programmes of the libraries as well. The teaching staff of the departments takes charge in the editorship, the publication and the arbitration committees of *Türk Kütüphaneciliği* and *Bilgi Dünyası* (Turkish Librarianship and the World of Information) periodicals that are acknowledged by the international indexes. Furthermore, the departments arrange national and international scientific and professional meetings with the aim of strengthening the international relations. The teaching staff also works as directorate general, supervisor and manager of information centres for the state institutions.

The main problems concerning the librarianship education in Turkey can be listed as the abundance in number of students and the inadequacy in the number of teaching staff, as well as the employment problems of the graduates. On the other hand, Departments of Information Management in Turkey have productive and dynamic structures. They work for educating students as qualified experts that Turkey needs to have.

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