

**AR 2517c***İsmail Akman\*, Nuran Akman\*\****BARTIN/ULUS County Public Library**

Ulus County Public Library is in Ulus, a county of Bartın province, in the Black Sea region of the northern coast of Turkey. The population of the county is about 50 000 and the economy mostly depends on forestry and agriculture.

When the old library building was found to be inadequate for modern needs, a 1 200 square metre new building was built in 2004 with concept contributions from the librarians.

In the Turkish Public Library system, the literary materials are mostly provided by central government (Culture and Tourism Ministry, General directorate of publishing and libraries), but this is insufficient for the needs of the collection. To keep the collection of the library up to date and to answer the needs of the members, recently published books and best-seller books are obtained by using the local budget funding (the income of the library and financial support by the local government). The books bought by the library are then announced with introductory bulletins to both the education institutions and to the general public.

In addition to the periodical publications subscribed to by the ministry, daily newspapers and periodical publications devoted to public interest (food, sports, computer, knitting, etc) are bought by our library with the local funding and the periodical publications department becomes more attractive. Similarly, CDs and DVDs are bought on a wide range of subjects (family, health, documentary films, music, films, cartoons, etc) to lend our members.



The first Internet Public Connection Centre was established by our library in Turkish library system. Together with this service which maintains 15 computers, for the

county a computer usage course was first opened by our library (and if they wish members may have personal cupboards).

To lower staffing needs and to allow for many different activities, a Camera Security System has been established. Our members can view our library online on internet whenever they want.

The Childrens' department is supported and improved by mental development materials such as scrabble, games, lego, puzzles, toys, etc; a special area has been created for the pre-school children (0 to 6 years), with audio books, a games tent and similar materials, bought by the library to attract, stimulate and maintain the childrens' interest in using the library.

To keep the library members interest alive, the following promotional activities were done:

- In a library project with the Chamber of the Dentists, and toothpaste are given as gifts to all the members who borrow books or other library materials, resulting in 13 000 soaps, and 13 000 tubes of toothpaste being delivered.
- 'The reader of the year' is chosen every year and awarded a plaque.
- In 2004, nine gold couns given as gifts in the 'highest number of books read' campaign.
- With an activity coordinated in 2007, to improve use of the library by school children on summer holiday, 'the child reader of the month' is selected every month and awarded with various gifts (bicycle, sports equipment, book sets, etc).
- Similarly, in 2007, table lamps were given as gifts to the members (adults / children) every month who read the highest number of books.
- To engage the interest of the housewives in the library, gifts and honour certificates are given to the housewives who read books most.
- To strengthen the relations with the public and for advertisement bookmarks are delivered.
- Childrens' book authors are invited to the library for coordinated talks and signing days.
- Film and cartoon showings are organised every two weeks for the children and popcorn is given to the children during the films.
- Exhibitions of paintings, crafts and arts created within the schools of the county of Ulus are displayed in the exhibition saloon of the library.
- Working in cooperation with different publishing houses, publications are provided for the school libraries around.
- Holiday books from the publishing houses are delivered for free to our members.

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- Library services such as lending, enumeration, statistics, observations are done by computer (a service not usually available in Turkey).
- The first public library web site was opened by the Ulus County Public Library in Turkey in 2000. The users can reach the library by using web site (<[www.uluskutuphanesi.gov.tr](http://www.uluskutuphanesi.gov.tr)>)
- Approved computer games are encouraged in the library in order to attract young people.



The improvement programmes planned by the Ulus County Public Library for future are:

- To increase the frequency of meetings between readers and authors. To organise traditional 'library nights' with the authors and new publications every year in the Library Week activity at the end of March. To organise readings of childrens' fairy stories with the cooperation of retired teachers in the county.
- To create discussion panels and give talks on earthquakes, health, agriculture, etc; with the related professional institutes. To allow the public to meet with the popular and famous people (scientists, author, artists, sportsmen, etc.) who were born in this region.
- To develop promotion products such as key holders, balloons, bags and bookmarks for good public relations and to introduce the services of the library. To prepare a project to organise an educational journey to the EU countries to 'Improve the reading habits of the children'.

In conclusion, in Turkey today, Ulus County Public Library is a receptive and innovative library. Therefore an intensive effort is being made to protect and develop these qualities.

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